

We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The Westside Journal office will be closed Christmas Eve through January 2 to enjoy time with family. We will reopen Monday, January 3 for our next publication, January 6, 2022.

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 23

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11



'Shoot with Santa' Raises Money for West Side Children



First Place Team: Congressman John Rutherford, David Jackson, Halston Nelson and Wayne Holms



Second Place Team: Skip Gwinn, Dan Powell, Joe Connell and Andy Davidson



Third Place Team: Phillip Teague, Daniel Teague, Max Bass and Joey Bradley

The 1st Inaugural Shoot with Santa was held Saturday, December 11. The event was held at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports on New Berlin Road. This was the first time for this event but it turned out wonderful. Local organizers David Jackson and Steve Nelson were very pleased with the total amount collected, following expenses, was close to \$19,000. Participants were able to join as a shooter or team; and sponsors had several options of



sponsorship. Each team completed 15 stations in the competition. "We were so grateful for the outpouring of sponsors for this event on such short notice," said David Jackson. "I want to say thanks to all the people that came out to our Clay Shoot. Five teams were from Hilliard and Callahan and 10 teams from Jacksonville."

This shoot wouldn't have been possible without the sponsors from Out Reach of America Orange Park and Davidson Realty in Jacksonville.

All proceeds went to provide toys

and clothes for families in Hilliard, Callahan and Bryceville. Each of our local schools were contacted and asked to provide assistance for how many families each had. "We are grateful to educators Lee Ann Jackson, Kristen Ray, Tammy Smith and Mrs. White that helped with getting the word out to all the schools," continued

Jackson. "And many thanks to our sponsors: All Around Roofing, B & V Timber, Franklin Equipment, Riverland Timber, RBJ Timber, Reliant Logistics, Inc., Red Oak Logistics, Taylor Timber



and T & T Building Supply."

Organizers have already set the date for next year: Saturday, December 10, 2022. They plan to make this event bigger and better each year to make more families' Christmases bright!

Merry Christmas!



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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.

Why So Much Chaos?

Dear Editor,

Why do tornadoes happen like in Kentucky, Arkansas areas, etc.? Why do we have global warming? Why do we have the pandemic? Why does God allow so much suffering?

There seems to be no end to bad things happening! "...Consider your ways," Haggai 1:5. Not all, but most people live like there is no God. "...Only a fool says there is no God," Psalm 14:1. God has always had to depend on a small faithful minority who loves Him enough to stand against the tide of the world system. God/Jesus doesn't like to be ignored. Consequently, these bad things happen so people will have somewhat of a humble spirit and also to keep people from acting so animal like. When people are suffering, God can communicate with them. It's just human nature. We've got to have a certain amount of pressure on us to act civil.

During the Christmas season, you can shop in the stores and the true meaning of Christmas is not even heard. But everybody wants to be blessed. If our country wants to be blessed, we need to repent as a nation and ask God for forgiveness. Our president

is so devoid of wisdom, that it's terribly pitiful. He's taking us down the wide road of destruction. "To respect God is the beginning of wisdom..." Proverbs 9:10. The following scriptures (Exodus 20:5 and 34:14) will tell you that God is jealous and He demands recognition. It says, "God's name is jealous," Deut. 6:15, Nahum 1:2. Jealousy is more dangerous and cruel than anger. The reason it says in Matthew 24, that bad things will happen more and more and be more severe, is because it was prophesied back in Isaiah 46:10, that God knows the end from the beginning. He knew that as time unraveled, people would become more and more ungodly; which also gives credence to the accuracy of the Bible. Much as we like to concentrate on God's love & mercy, anger and judgment are also part of His righteous character.

Although God is a God of love, His holiness will not allow Him to ignore sin. The path that our nation is embarking now will only lead to ruin. God will allow our enemy to rejoice over us. We will not be the 'Big Power' that we once were.

In Jesus' Name,
Jack Lewis

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- John 1:29



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Peace and Joy
this Christmas!*

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Eagle Scout Project & WNHS Express a Success

My name is Carson Watts and I am a 10th grade student at West Nassau High School. This year I had the opportunity to play an active role in planning and organizing WNHS Express at West Nassau High School. Donations from this event exceeded the goal of \$2,000.

All of the money raised was used to help 20 families in Nassau County for the holidays. I appreciate the effort and time of the students and volunteers to ensure this event was a success. I would like to express my gratitude to the Town of Callahan, businesses and the community members for making a positive impact on families in Nassau County. The support, love and kindness shown in this town made me proud to



call Callahan home! This event served as my Eagle Scout project. After completion, I would like to say that I am on my way toward being Callahan's next Eagle Scout!



Merry Christmas

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I would like to encourage you to pray for Democrat Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia. This man is dealing with a massive attack from the President and his Democratic Party. He is essentially a lone warrior against the disastrous "Build Back Better" \$1.7 trillion economic and climate package that the Democrats are trying to shove down our throats and decimate our country. He is a lone wolf with more courage and backbone than all of his colleagues combined, including most of the Republicans.

In true Democratic fashion, the outrageous spending bill has just enough freebies to distract the focus from people of the devastating content in the 2500 page bill. Senator Manchin was able to scrap an off-shore drilling ban from the BBB act, but the bill still contains more damaging content. The off-shore drilling ban would have been a disaster for our country, rolling out the red carpet for Russia and Venezuela to replace 20% of America's daily production and costing Texas alone over 1 million jobs along our Gulf Coast according to Jason Modglin, President of Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.

Have you stopped and wondered why Biden and the democrats are continuously attempting to destroy everything related to energy and jobs? First it was the cancelling of the

pipeline which placed thousands of workers on the unemployed chart, now if they had gotten their way a million more Americans would have been unemployed not to mention that while tearing down our economy they would be bolstering the economies of our enemies. Gasoline prices would have also sky-rocketed again!

We have to somehow awaken the sheeple and make it clear that the Communist Democratic Party has a master plan that they are ushering in that is totally destructive to our Republic. Their plan which was taught in law school in 1968 outlines how to destroy a democracy and it is being implemented daily right in front of our eyes and so many either can't see it due to stubbornness, being comfortably complacent, ignorant of the facts or just don't care. One thing is certain, if America does not change course soon there soon will be no America!

Isaiah 9:6; "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Remember the real reason for this season, Jesus!

As always the above is just my opinion, except for the Bible verse, that's God's fact.

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Why December 25th?

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



It is almost Christmas time. I have grown up in a context in which December 25th is the day that we celebrate Christmas. As a child, growing up, I assumed that this must have been the date that Jesus was actually born. So my assumption was that Jesus was born on December 25th, 1 AD. This is actually not the case. According to the Biblical and historical data, Jesus was born when the decree from Caesar Augustus took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria (Luke 2:1-2). The historical data seems to indicate that Quirinius served two terms as the governor of Syria. The first term was from 6-4 B.C. and his second term was from A.D. 6-9. When this biblical date is coupled with the fact that the Herod that is mentioned in Matthew 2:1-19 and Luke 1:5 died in 4 B.C., there is a high probability that Jesus was born between 6-4 B.C. So the Gregorian calendar is not accurate in its splitting of the two eras of history B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (anno domini), Latin for "in the year of our Lord." Four to six years off is still pretty close.

The second fallacy that I held was that it was a given that Jesus was born on December 25th. The Gospels do not tell us when Jesus was born. According to the encyclopedia Britannica, there are two major proposals about why December 25th, was the day that was decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Roman Catholic Church celebrated the feast of the Annunciation on March 25th. This feast was allegedly celebrated on the day that the angel announced to Mary that she had conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit. They simply add nine months to the calendar and December 25th would have been the birth date of Jesus.

The second reason is a little more complicated. We know for sure that in 336 A.D., the church in Rome began to celebrate Christmas as the day of Jesus' birth. Constantine was the Roman Emperor at this time, and it appears that he tried to weaken the effects of paganism, by replacing the rebirth of the Unconquered Sun (Sol Invictus) with the birth of Jesus. I don't know what is speculation and what is reality, but the Roman Empire did set aside the December 25th, 336 A.D. as the birthday of Jesus.

The purpose of this article has not been to confuse anybody or to stir controversy or doubt. The specific date of Jesus' birth does not matter. What matters is that Jesus was actually born. The Gospels are full of historical pointers that are verified in history. The Christian faith is rooted on solid ground. We should celebrate the birth of Jesus. We should give thanks to God for his indescribable gift that he gave to the world. Jesus really was born, Jesus really walked this earth, Jesus really lived a sinless life, Jesus was really crucified for our sins, and Jesus is really the resurrected Lord. Jesus came to die in order to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). I need Jesus more than any other gift that I have ever received. Regardless of the date, I am grateful to God that he gave His one and only Son that whoever would believe in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:1-16).

Eastern Star Provides Gifts for Life Care Residents

The Callahan Chapter #154 of the Eastern Star planned to do a special Christmas project of providing at least ten gifts to residents at the Life Care Center of Hilliard. After receiving several donations, the group was able to provide 19 gifts. The gifts were wrapped and were delivered last week.

The Eastern Star Chapter wishes to thank everyone that donated and helped with this project. The residents were thrilled to receive the gifts. Thank you also to the staff at Life Care that assisted in the delivery of the packages.



Clerk's Office Donates to Micah's Place



The Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's office is honored to have partnered once again with Micah's Place to bring hope, help, and a sense of empowerment to survivors of domestic violence in our community.

The Micah's Place Spirit of Empowerment drive seeks to gather gift cards for survivors to help take back the power that is so often stripped from them in abusive relationships. The gift cards allow survivors to choose just the right gift, or ingredients to cook just the

right meal, for their own children. The Clerk's staff answered that call with a stack of gift cards for Micah's Place clients.

The shelter has ongoing needs of food, hygiene items, and comfort items—and an outpouring of those items came in throughout the drive as well.

Thank you to all who donated, and to the advocates and volunteers at Micah's Place, who serve our community 24 hours a day, offering empathy, encouragement, and hope! Merry Christmas to all!

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CHURCH NEWS

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, in Hilliard, will host a Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 7 p.m. Friday, December 24. All are invited!

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Opportunity Quilt Winner Announced!

Peggy Smith

The County Star Quilt Guild held their final meeting of 2021 last Monday night with a special Christmas celebration held at the Anchor Church fellowship hall. Members enjoyed dinner and a brief meeting before the drawing was held for the lucky quilt winner. We would like to thank the community for their continued support of our Guild during our Opportunity Quilt Raffle. Drum roll please! The winner of the quilt was Chris Rudd. Chris was from Hilliard originally, but has moved out of the area. As luck would have it, Chris just happened to be in town visiting during the fair and purchased the winning ticket. Thanks to Dawn West of the Westside Journal who helped out by pulling the winning ticket.

Following the announcement of the quilt winner, another surprise was announced. The members of the Guild graciously presented a quilt to Dawn for her continued support of the Guild. "I was totally shocked and thrilled at the same time," said Dawn. "This is not

the reason we enjoy helping out. I love helping when we can. Thank you so much for this special gift!"



The ladies then had a 'Show & Tell' time, in which anyone that wishes shows the projects they have been working on. These are some very talented ladies. Their work was beautiful and some of them were not even finished!

Country Star welcomes those who are interested in quilting! Please join us on the second Monday of each month (January 10, 2022) for our Guild meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Anchor Church on US 1 south of Callahan. We also have Sit-N-Sew on the 2nd & 4th Friday's at the Callahan Masonic Lodge Hall. Visit our website at: www.countrystarquilters.com for more information. Merry Christmas!

Bryceville Community Club News



At the December meeting, the Bryceville Community Club was treated to a medley of Christmas songs as performed by the Lewis brothers. Shown (l to r) are: Jacob, Ben and Caleb Lewis as they performed for the club members. The boys' singing skills delighted the audience as they performed a wide variety of seasonal songs. The young men are pupils of local music teacher, Joel Pace.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pickren Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Sam and Daphne Pickren, of Folkston, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 18. The two met while in high school in Folkston and became sweethearts. They celebrated their special milestone with a party hosted by their children. It was a special evening with their families and closest friends in attendance. Congratulations to this sweet couple!

Their children are Tammi (Joe) Cooner of Folkston, Krista (Billy) Campbell of Greensboro, Georgia, Dana (Chris) Cockerham of Hilliard, Joe Pickren of Folkston and Anna (Garrett) Moody of St. Marys. They also have 12 grandchildren: Trenton, Josh, Levy, Abbie, Darci, Dane, Tripp, Chase, Josie, Laine, Clair and Hudson. Congratulations!



Brynn Evelyn Bass

Jason and Caitlin Bass, of Jacksonville, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Brynn Evelyn Bass. Brynn was born December 5, 2021 at 3:11 a.m. at Baptist South Medical Center in Jacksonville. She weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and measured 20 3/4 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Ken and Susan Bass of Callahan. Maternal grandmother is Penny Bowers of St. Petersburg. Proud great-grandmother is Latrelle Bass of Jacksonville.



During the season of Christmas friends and family gather to show how much they love each other. Here at Seldomridge, we know God blessed our company, and we pray He blesses each and every one of you this holiday season as you gather together with your loved ones. We hope that as you gather, you will remember our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who took on the sins of the world to give us all the gift of eternal life. Remember this as you share the gift of your time and company with the loved ones in your life.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
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West Side Seniors Celebrate Christmas



It has been a long time coming that our west side seniors had the opportunity to meet together and enjoy their Christmas celebration. Last Thursday, Hilliard First Assembly of God graciously offered their fellowship hall to have the Westside Seniors celebration. The seniors have currently been meeting one day a week at the church while their facility to be under renovation.

We had a wonderful celebration that

began by welcoming everyone and then playing a few games of Bingo! Laughter filled the room while they played and as they enjoyed talking with each other. We enjoyed a luncheon of ham, potato salad, green beans and banana pudding. Our hearts and tummies were filled as the celebration came to an end. We all wished each other Merry Christmas and look forward to a huge party when they return to their new beautiful center!

Merry Christmas!



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Operation Run to the Hills

Ashley Spicer, NCSO PIO

Within the last several months, NCSO and the Nassau County Narcotics Task Force, which consists of Narcotics Detectives from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and the Fernandina Beach Police Department, received several citizen complaints and gathered intelligence from numerous sources in reference to narcotics activity in and around the Yulee Hills and Page Hill areas in Yulee.

During the course of this investigation, narcotics detectives in conjunction with deputies assigned to patrol were able to identify several individuals who actively engage in the sales of illicit narcotics and/or actively work to facilitate the distribution of illicit narcotics. Several of these individuals were also revealed to be previously



convicted felons with a history of violent criminal and/or narcotics violations. Detectives and deputies employed multiple investigative techniques, including undercover operations, in order to infiltrate and gather real-time intelligence from the extensive narcotics distribution network. The months-long investigation resulted in several felony charges against these narcotics distributors. Additionally, the investigation resulted in the seizure of two semi-automatic handguns, numerous knives, over \$100,000 in assets (cash and vehicle), over a pound of Methamphetamine, over an ounce of Fentanyl and Heroin, as well as multiple pounds of illicit Marijuana and concentrated THC products.

"Criminal activity will not be tolerated by the law abiding citizens of our county, nor the Nassau County Sheriff's Office" said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "If you know of anyone selling illegal drugs in our community or is engaging in illegal activity, please let us know."

There were 11 arrests made from Yulee, Fernandina and Jacksonville, as a result of Operation Run to the Hills.



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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.

Monday, December 13

Keith Weston Whittles, 52, 27207 Virginia Street, Hilliard: Trespass Posted Construction Site; Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge

Tuesday, December 14

Steven Benjamin Krause, 33, 54137 Pelican Road, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance (x2)

Wednesday, December 15

Steven Lathel Jones, 55, 45109 Whitfield Road, Callahan: Violation of Probation Felony; Deprive 911 Communications; Felony Battery Domestic with Strangulation; Witness Tampering

Friday, December 17

Clayton Tyler Crews, 23, Hilliard: DUI
 Haylie Jacqueline Ryals, 21, Callahan: Bond Surrender Felony (x6); Battery Domestic Violence

Monday, December 20

Coby Mitchell Spencer, 22, Callahan: Failure to Appear (x2)

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NANCY WASHINGTON ASHE

Nancy Washington Ashe, 76 of Callahan, passed away Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Baptist Medical Center, Jacksonville. Nancy was born June 15, 1945 in West Point, Georgia, the daughter of Aubrey Washington and Martha Fort Washington. She graduated from Valley (AL) High School, Montevallo College and Auburn University. Upon the completion of her education, she moved to Callahan in 1972 where she was a media specialist at West Nassau High School until her retirement in 2008. Her professional affiliations included the National Education Association, the Florida Association for Media Specialists, Alpha Delta Kappa and the Nassau County Retired Educators. During her retirement, Nancy volunteered at West Nassau's media center.

Nancy was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Callahan and served faithfully on the financial accounting committee. Nancy cared deeply about her family, friends and the community and was always willing to help those in need. Nancy loved to travel and experience our world. She protected our environment through recycling which was a cause she practiced and promoted. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her – our community has lost a servant.

Nancy is survived by her sister Helen (Tom) Cook of Cataula; her brother Larry (Brenda) Washington of Whitesville; a special friend Jon Birkhold of OH; three nieces Lisa (Chris) Coppenbarger, Laurie (Brian) Coon and Jennifer (Justin) Gazda; one nephew Kenneth (Elizabeth) Washington; and eight great nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Saturday, December 11 at the Whitesville Methodist Cemetery with Rev. Charles Mitchell officiating.

Cox Funeral Home, Hamilton, GA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Please leave online condolences at www.coxfh.com.

RAYMOND W. BEAUMONT, JR.



Raymond "Ray" Walter Beaumont, Jr., 74, of Callahan, passed away on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at Baptist North Medical Campus in Jacksonville. Ray was born in Rockledge, Pennsylvania on



OBITUARIES

March 13, 1947, to the late Raymond Walter Beaumont and Catherine Marie Platz Beaumont. He was raised in Pennsylvania and graduated from Abington High School in 1965. Shortly after school, Raymond joined the United States Air Force where he proudly served our country for 4 years. He was stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam during the Vietnam War and then was stationed in MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. While in Tampa, Ray met the love of his life, Maria Henderson. They were married on March 7, 1970.

After Ray's honorable discharge from the military, he earned his A&P license and worked as a Military Aircraft Mechanic. Ray and Maria resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for 19 months, moved to New Jersey for 3 years where Ray was employed at the New Jersey Air National Guard, then transferred to the Florida Air National Guard which brought them to Jacksonville, for 2 years. In 1977, they made their forever home Callahan. Ray enjoyed his longtime career in the military. His final position was Chief Master Sergeant. After 34 years of dedicated service, Ray retired in 1998. Ray's main passion and hobby was restoring cars. He owned and operated Beaumont's Restoration for many years and his favorite vehicle to restore were Dodges. More than anything, Ray loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. He was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend, who will be forever missed. Ray was preceded in death by his parents.

Ray is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Maria "Pinkie" Beaumont of Callahan; children Sandy (Jim) Gustafson and Raymond "Ray" W. Beaumont, III, all of Callahan; brother Jay Bradford (Kim) Beaumont; and his grandchildren Payton Davidson, Ray Beaumont, IV, Lance Beaumont and Reese Gustafson.

The family received friends Tuesday, December 21 prior to the celebration of Ray's life service held at the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery where military honors were rendered.

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

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

MARGARET RUTH BUCKELS



Margaret Ruth Buckels, 79, of Callahan, passed away on December 20, 2021 at Community Hospice Jane and Bill Warner Center for Caring in Fernandina Beach. She was born October 3, 1942 in Jacksonville to the late Ellery Howard and Vesta Kirkland Howard. Margaret was an avid gardener who was passionate about tending to her flowers. She loved traveling, sight-seeing, fishing and going to the beach. Margaret was employed at the US Postal Service as a Mail Carrier. She was full of life and certainly lived to the fullest. She loved watching every sunrise and sunset especially with her sweet family by her side. More than anything, Margaret loved spending time with her family and friends. She was preceded in death by parents; son Gene Buckels; half-brothers Melvin Howard and Alvin Howard; granddaughter Jennifer Perry-Drury; niece Valarie Crews Lee; and nephews Charles Perry and Ken Howard.

Margaret is survived by her loving husband of 10 years, David Nelson of Callahan; children Christy (Joe) Highsmith, Connie (Keith) Brinson and Bonnie (Paul) Buckels, all of Bryceville; brothers James (Donnie) Howard of Bryceville, Louis (Ruth) Howard of Jacksonville and Harold (Merlene) Howard of St. George; sister Margie (Ted) Crews of St. George; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 23 prior to the celebration of Margaret's life service at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Brother Ted Crews officiating. Interment will follow at Mill Creek Cemetery in Hilliard.

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

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

THOMAS "BRENT" COCKRELL



Thomas "Brent" Cockrell, 35, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord December 12, 2021. Brent loved spending time with his family, his niece Kinlee particularly was the light of his life. Brent loved fishing and smoking meats with his Dad and Colby, going to the beach

with his mom and sister and a trip to the river with his cousin Bobby. Brent also loved traveling with his best friend Adam. Brent was loved by many and had his fair share of struggles, which he is now freed from and can finally rest in peace. He will be missed by many. He is preceded in death by his grandmother Patricia Davies; and his grandfather Thomas Cockrell.

He is survived by his parents Thomas and Scarlett Cockrell of Callahan; his sister Brittany (Colby); niece Kinlee; half-brother Kevin King; nephew Nathaniel King; grandmother Reba Kay Cockrell; grandfather Robert Allen (Deanna) Davies, Sr.; Uncle Mike; close friend Adam Brown; cousin Bobby Davies; and many extended family and friends.

JAMES WILLIAM GROOMS



James William Grooms, 80, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away Saturday, December 18, 2021 at his home. He was born August 17, 1941 in Folkston, Georgia to the late William Ross Grooms and Rachel Geiger Sandidge. He proudly served his country in the US Air Force. He retired from Kennedy Space Center after 39 years of service. He was a member of Homeland Congregational Holiness Church.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his step-father Kenneth Sandidge; step-mother Macie Grooms; sister Patricia Grooms; brothers-in-law Paul Nighbert and John Owens; and a nephew Bucky Grooms.

He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Cheryl T. Grooms; sons Troy (Beth) Grooms, Jimmy (Shana) Grooms, Neil (Jennifer) Grooms and Shaine (Christine) Grooms; step-daughter Jordan Walker; sisters Gloria Ashburn, Pamela Sandidge, Penelope Nighbert, Kathy Cooper and Kimberly Darnell; brothers Royce (Pamela) Grooms and Gregory (Cindy) Grooms; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; the mother of his children Donna Grooms; and a number of nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, December 22 at 11:30 a.m. prior to the funeral service at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Rev. Tommy Walker officiating. Burial will follow in Brickyard Cemetery in Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

ANNA GRACE PEARSON



A. Grace Pearson passed away Saturday, December 4, 2021 in an automobile collision. A. was and always will be a beloved daughter, sibling, granddaughter and aunt ("Dubba"). A. was a 2021 East Tennessee State Summa Cum Laude graduate in Media and Communications with a focus on radio, TV and film. A. aspired to create films that would make a difference in the

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world and uplift diverse communities. A. was employed full time at the Johnson City Public Library and loved to talk about books, music, films and podcasts. Reading to niece Wendy was a great joy for both child and aunt. A.'s life was too full to sum up in these few short sentences. Our family mourns the giant hole left in us with this tragic loss.

A. is survived by parents Douglas "Chuck" (Jr.) and Kristin Pearson; sister Catherine Pearson; niece Wendy Pearson; grandparents Douglas (Sr.) and Ann Pearson of Hilliard and Darrell and Claudia Noble; uncles Stewart Pearson and Jeremy Noble; and many cousins, great aunts and uncles and dear friends. A. was predeceased by an Uncle Ryan Noble.

The family received friends prior to the celebration of life service held Friday, December 10 at the Jeffers Funeral Chapel in Afton at Graceland Memorial Gardens, followed by interment.

Memorial contributions may be made to a special fund to be established in memory of A. to ETSU at: ETSU Foundation, PO Box 70721, Johnson City, TN 37614; or on-line atetsu.edu/give, select College of Arts & Sciences and note A. Pearson Fund.

MARY LOUISE PERSONETTE



Mary Louise Personette, 79, of Callahan, passed away on December 18, 2021, at Community Hospice Center for Caring at Ascension St.

Vincent's Southside with her loving family by her side. Mary was born in Panama City, Florida on to the late David Royal and Edna Dawn Royal. She was raised in Panama City and Callahan. After high school, Mary married the love of her life, Allen Eugene Personette, Sr. on November 5, 1960. They traveled with Allen's Navy career to Hawaii, Long Beach, California, San Diego, California, Providence, Rhode Island, Pensacola and Saginaw, Michigan. After Allen's retirement they relocated to Missouri where Mary owned and operated Mary's Yarn shop for many years. She loved knitting, sewing, making quilts, and enjoyed teaching others how to sew.

In 1987, Allen and Mary made Callahan their forever home. They were longtime members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church where she enjoyed attending and worshipping her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mary also enjoyed her time working at Wal-Mart in Jacksonville, traveling,

OBITUARIES

going on cruises and Disney trips and Navy Reunions. More than anything, Mary loved her family and enjoyed spending time with them, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; stepfather George Wells; loving husband of 49 years, Allen Eugene Personette, Sr.; two brothers Henry Clifford Royal and Monroe Royal; and two sisters Marie Norris and Martha Testone.

Mary is survived by her loving children Allen Eugene (Marie) Personette, Jr. of Lawtey, Dennis (Joy) Personette of Jacksonville and Cindy (Garret) of Folkston; stepson David (Cindy) Dill of Twin Lakes, MI; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren; along with numerous extended family members.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, December 29 at 10 a.m. prior to the celebration of Mary's life at 11 a.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jacksonville with Pastor William Paul Reister officiating. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Mary's Life to Community Hospice, 866-253-6681.

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

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

LARRY EUGENE STROBLE

Larry Eugene "Gene" Stroble, 69, of Hilliard, passed away on December 1, 2021 in hospice care after long complicated illnesses. Gene was born April 11, 1952 in St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville. He attended Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville and Wayne County High School in Jesup, Georgia, and graduated in 1971. Gene joined the United States Army right after graduation where he served 3 years as a Chaplin Assistant.

After receiving an honorable discharge, Gene went to Brewton Parker College and Valdosta State University where he earned multiple degrees, including a Masters Degree in Music and Education. Gene worked in various jobs, all involved in the music field, including The Nice House of Music and as a Knowledge Specialist Rep. for the Lowrey Organ Company before establishing a career

as an educator specializing in Elementary Musical Education, where he retired after many years of teaching due to health issues. Gene enjoyed his family, his friends, and his dogs. He was actively involved in the American Theater Organ Society (ATOS) and often hosted monthly club meetings at his house.

Gene is survived by his mother Jeanie Jones; three brothers Ricky (Cindy) Jones, Alan (Kim) Stroble and Daryl Stroble; two sisters Kay (Pat) Patterson and Sandy (Gloria) Jones; and many nephews and great nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, father, stepfather and longtime companion Rosemary Sikes.

Memorial donations may be made to Community Hospice The Warner Center for Caring in Fernandina Beach. The family wishes to extend their gratitude for the kind services of Dr. Edward Tribuzio and everyone at Baptist Medical Center Nassau and Community Hospice Nassau County.

A memorial service was held Sunday, December 5 at River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard, with Pastor Benjie Loyd officiating. A family interment will be held at a later date.

SANDEE JUNE WILDES



Sandee June Wildes, 80, of Callahan, went home to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on December 16, 2021. She passed peacefully at Community Hospice Warner Center for Caring.

Sandee was born April 12, 1941 in Cassville, West Virginia to Alvie Mayle and Gertrude Mayle Haller. She proudly

served in the US Navy. Sandee retired from Temple Adath Israel in Lexington, Kentucky following 30 years of excellence as an Administrative Assistant. She was a member of the Bridge Family Worship Center in Yulee. Sandee had an enormous love of dogs and nurtured and loved many dogs throughout her years. She was very artistically gifted. Sandee enjoyed writing and with her sister Doris, they published a book of their poems. Sandee was in her happy place when she could shop. Shopping was her favorite pastime. She loved to purchase gifts for others and rarely shopped for herself.

Sandee loved her family very much and took enormous pride in her great-grandchildren and showered them with gifts. She was affectionately known as 'Grandma Sandee' to some and 'GIGI' to others. Sandee kept meticulous account of everyone's birthday and anniversary. She was sure to send out cards for every occasion, and she never missed one. Sandee is preceded in death by her parents; daughter Theresa Marie Brownson; and son William Mason Wildes.

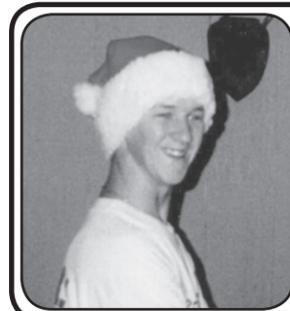
Sandee is survived by her daughter Lisa (Jim) Dozier; sister Doris Swearingen; grandchildren Brandy Kilby, Danielle (John Lewis) Hill, Kasey (Shawn) Hull, Joshua (Kari) Brown, Clinton (Barbara) Brown and Louis (Nikki) Dunbar; 11 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A private celebration of life will be held at the family home. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, donations made to Community Hospice of Nassau County on her behalf.

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

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

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



Merry Christmas in Heaven
In Loving Memory of
R. Niel Hampton, Jr.

November 17, 1984 - October 11, 2003

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In Loving Memory of
DALTON ED NETTLES

December 22, 1995 ~ July 10, 2009

Dalton,

Happy Heavenly Birthday to our Angel. We have had so many events through the years and we still sit and think of you wishing you were here with us. We always remember things about you everyday. You are forever our Dalton Ed.

We truly wish you could be here with us. We miss you so much. We get through each day knowing we will see you again one sweet day. We will love you forever and always. Watch over your sister and your nephew. We love you bunches baby boy.

Love always and forever,
Daddy and Momma



Happy Birthday Bubba! I can't believe I'm about to have a little boy whose name is honoring yours. I can't wait to teach him the things you taught me and teach him all about his Uncle Dalton. He would have loved you just as much as you loved him! Can't wait to see you again. I love you so much Dalton!

Always and forever,
Heather and Dayton

Congratulations Local Bike Racers!



Cason Rowe

Congratulations Cason Rowe, 11, on winning State Champion (Youth 9-11 division) in Mountain Bike Racing in the State of Florida. Congratulations to Cobie Rowe, 8, on winning the Runner-up (Youth 6-8 division) in Mountain Bike Racing for the State. The boys raced in the Florida State Championship Series. They race all over the state of Florida in a 9 race series. The series is put on by Gone Riding. The boys have been competing since they were 2 1/2 - 3 years old (toddlers).

Cason and Cobie's proud parents are C.W. and Tiffany Rowe, of Hilliard. They are the grandsons of Craig and Connie Rowe, of Hilliard; and great-grandsons of C.W. and Agnes Rowe of Bryceville.



Cobie Rowe

HMS Basketball County Champs!



Congratulations to Hilliard Middle School's Boys A Team on winning the county basketball championship! Hilliard defeated Yulee 47-46 in double overtime to bring the championship home. The team consists of Jacob Cooper, RJ Jackson, Ethan Garland, Camauri Bolden, James Foster, Dante Lewis, King McMillian, Brian Wheat, DJ Alderman, Javon Lee, and the boys are coached by Phillip Smith and Chad Wade.



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Merry Christmas!



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11



JOE MICHAELS
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I'm so thankful to have been blessed by so many wonderful clients! Thank you all for your trust and confidence. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

- Joe

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