

Sunday, December 27 Callahan at 7 p.m. See ad on page 8

WESTSIDE OURIAL New Year's Ever Fireworks Thursday, December 31

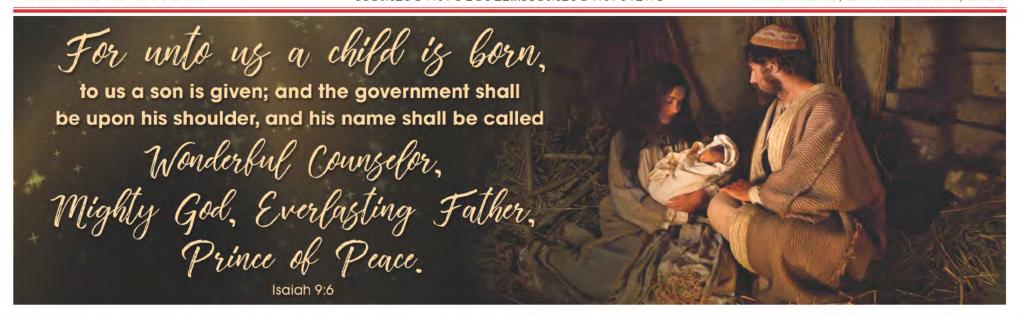


Hilliard Airpark 6 p.m.

VOLUME XVII ISSUE 24

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020



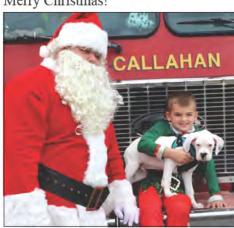


Santa Run Held in Callahan

Another benefit to living in a small town is enjoying the annual Santa Run! Saturday, December 12, sirens were heard blaring all through the city limits of Callahan for the annual Santa Run! The Santa Run is hosted by the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department. Members of the department ride through the streets of Callahan with Santa Claus aboard the fire engine and also providing gifts for children along their route.

This year, the department was blessed to receive donations from the West Nassau JROTC, SCW Liquors in Callahan and the United Steel Worker Local 415, which Stanley Boles

matched the union members' gift. Each child along the route had fun receiving a gift, and most of all, seeing Santa! Merry Christmas!









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Cubota Tractor Corporation, 2020.

Merry Christmas! I shared in my last column a few thoughts from my childhood days and how Christmas was at our house with five stair-step children and not a lot of money...wonderful. I never knew that we didn't have a lot of money. That wasn't part of the equation for us children. We had a wonderful family, lots of fun and tons of love. It continues today. Unfortunately, in most homes today, there is never enough of anything. We must always have more.

As I recall my mother sharing with me several years ago, that she and Daddy tried to make sure they had at least ten dollars for each child for Christmas. Yep, ten dollars! I really can't recall anything I received for Christmas I just remember it was always good. Many people have been shopping for weeks to make sure that they have enough gifts. There comes a time when enough is enough. Don't get me wrong I love to

A Word on From the Publisher

give but there is a limit. Most of us have too much anyway!

We celebrated Christmas with our children Friday night! That's always a wonderful time. Roger started a tradition a few years ago by hiding some little gifts in our trails for the grandchildren. He has moved out trails in the woods around our house that are safe for the kids to rumble through. Even though the children have grown, they still look forward to that tradition and we will do it as long as they want us to! We wrap up their little gifts and then double bag them and place their names on the bags. Each one of them are given a flashlight and off they go. They are only allowed to pick up their gift. Once they find their gift they bring them back up to the porch and open them together! It is so much fun watching all the flashlights in the woods and hearing their voices chattering! Memories and precious ones!

As Christmas Day draws near, I pray that you will remember the reason for the season...Jesus Christ! When I think back to the 'Christmas story' of Jesus' birth, I'm in awe. What should

have been disastrous, a pregnant virgin, turned out to be miraculous! Remember, Mary was very pregnant as she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem...on a donkey (most of us complain if we have to park too far from the door at work). When they

arrived, there was no room for them in the inn but the innkeeper offered the stable behind the inn (not a nice warm hospital room with soft blankets). Mary gave birth to the Son of God, Jesus (without her mother and ten relatives). She wrapped her sweet little boy in some cloths and laid him in a manger, a place where the animals ate (not a warmed bassinette). Now if that doesn't remind you of how blessed we are... that's just sad. This precious baby, the

Savior of the world, came to earth as a baby and lived on earth for 33 years. How would you like to teach Jesus how to talk and walk? He was a baby just as you and I were at one time. As we celebrate Christmas this week, may we be reminded of the reason for the celebration.

In life, we can always find things to complain about. This week, let's focus on the blessings in our lives. Let's not forget that each breath that we take is given to us by God. What a blessing that is. I do find if I start my

> counting my blessings, the day goes much better. I'm already ahead of the game. On Monday, one of the hardest days of the week, God blessed my mama with a great doctor's appointment for

morning with Jesus and

relief of pain she's been enduring! Thank you Jesus! Let's all try to place our hearts and minds with Jesus this week as we celebrate our Savior! I pray that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a super Happy New Year. Just a reminder that we will not publish a paper next week as we always take the week following Christmas off!

Merry Christmas!

Dawy S. West



We, the Westside Journal staff, want to wish each and every one of our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Our office will be closed December 25 through January 4, 2021. We will not publish a December 31st issue, as we always take the week following Christmas off to enjoy time with our families.

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

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

Dawn West Publisher Roger WestOwner/Reporter Jessie Pickett.....Graphic Designer

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Out With A Boom Fireworks Sunday!

The Town of Callahan, along with several sponsors, is happy to present the Out With A Boom Fireworks display this Sunday, December 27 at 7 p.m. The display will be shot from the West Nassau High School football field. Gates will open at West Nassau at 5 p.m. West Nassau Band & Football Concessions will be open for food

purchases and the Warrior Band will be providing music. The event is Free to attend and is a great way to support the school programs.

Callahan First Baptist Church will also welcome guests for viewing from their parking lot. They will have several food trucks for snacks and goodies.

Clerk's Office Partners with Micah's Place



The Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's office partnered with Micah's Place this year to bring some hope, help and Christmas cheer!

Advocates from Micah's Place put together a wish list for their clients and the shelter, and the Clerk's staff helped make wishes come true with an outpouring of generosity! Toys for the kids, gifts for the moms, food and toiletries for the shelter, as well as gift cards for the Micah's Place 'Spirit of Empowerment' gift card drive, were all in abundance by the end of the two-week drive!

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

This is nearly the same column as the final column of 2019. It is just as relevant today as it was a year ago,

perhaps even more so.

Roger R. West

As we wrap up another year and I reflect on things that have and are occurring in our nation and our world and I am convinced we are living in the last days as depicted in the Bible. I do not consider myself as an overly 'religious' person, however I do know that I am a 'born again' Christian through faith by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I love God and praise Him for sending his only Son to be born of a virgin right here on this very earth we live on. For 33 years, He walked this earth as the only perfect one to ever live here. His mission was to show the way to eternal life by sacrificing His own life for me and each of you.

I firmly believe every word of the Bible to be the complete truth with no variation whatsoever! What is wrong is wrong and what is right is right. We as a people cannot arbitrarily make evil good to satisfy our earthly desires. God is the one and only gauge of evil and

good and He spells it out very clearly through His word. Our world is ever changing, it is becoming more corrupt and evil every day that passes. Even our Religious Institutions are changing. It seems as we are seeing less and less of denominations and more of churches with no affiliation. This makes me ponder, could this be a movement to the one world religion?

I most definitely have more questions than answers, however I do know that this is the time of year to Praise the birth of our Savior. It is time to reflect on our past and earnestly pray for our future. We should concentrate less on the commercialization of Christmas and focus more on the birth of Jesus, for it is He that is the real reason for this season.

I pray that everyone has a blessed Christmas, I pray for our nation, I pray for our President and most of all I pray that if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that you would receive him as your Lord and

Merry Christmas, and yes, it's still... just my opinion!

New Year's Eve Fireworks in Hilliard

This year, the Town of Hilliard was unable to have their annual July 4th fireworks display. The fireworks had already been purchased so the decision was made to move the display for New

Years! Next Thursday, December 31,

Year's Eve Fireworks show beginning at dark, 6-6:30 p.m. The fireworks will be released from the Hilliard Airpark and will be visible all around the Hilliard area. The Airpark will be open for

parking and viewing but there will be no other activities. Happy New Year!

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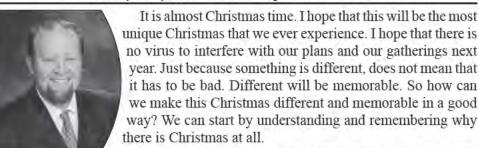
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Beholding Treasure

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



I have been following the advent calendar in the month of December for my preaching schedule. I have been really gripped by Luke 2 and how God gave the shepherds good news of great joy for all people. They responded to good news of great joy with activity. After Gabriel gave them the news of the birth of Jesus, they acted on it. They went to behold the Christ in Bethlehem that was lying in a manger. They reported the good news to everybody that they came in contact with. Their response to the news was spot on. They received the revelation, they acted on the revelation and they reported the revelation. I'm swept up in wonder about how magnificent it must have been to have been the recipient of that news.

Then I started considering the content and the reception of the news in my own life. When we read Luke 2, we almost envy the shepherds. They were given this news. They were really able to go to Bethlehem and behold Jesus. They had received the revelation of God about the coming of Christ and they beheld the real Jesus in a real way. There is a lot to envy, but at the end of the day, they beheld Jesus in a manger. How do we behold Jesus? Not by taking a trip to Bethlehem, but by seeing Him in his word. The Bible is God's revelation to his people. The revelation that we have is far superior to the limited revelation that the shepherds had. We see more of Jesus than they saw. We see more than a baby in a manger. We see and behold the King of Kings and Lord of Lords on every page of the Bible. Every story whispers his name. Every story fuels our understanding of joy in Jesus. Mary listened to what the shepherds told her and she treasured what she heard in our heart.

In a different Christmas setting this year, let's take time to behold the whole reason that Christmas exists. The revelation of God is our path to behold and treasure Christ.

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

By opening your heart and home to a youth in Foster Care, you can help forge a lifetime of success and happiness for a child right here in Nassau. Your support can open a world of possibilities. Are you ready to learn more? Contact recruiter@fssnf.org or 904-421-5864 for information.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, Boulogne, 28226 Church Dr., Hilliard. PAL provides hope through education and support to parents of addicted loved ones. Visit: www.palgroup.org to learn more. Free educational support group for parents and families.



Southeastern Bank Supports Westside Senior Life Center



Southeastern Bank of Hilliard presented a \$500 check December 9 to Nassau County Council on Aging's (NCCOA) Westside Senior Life Center in support of a planned renovation benefiting local seniors. Shown (1 to r) are: Jennifer Gregory, Southeastern Bank of Hilliard Branch Manager; Linda Rogers, NCCOA Geriatric Case Manager/Office Manager; and Lorra Britt, Southeastern Bank of Callahan Branch Manager.

Westside Senior Center Selected for Bag Program at Hilliard Winn-Dixie

Nassau County Council on Aging's (NCCOA's) Westside Senior Life Center has been selected as a beneficiary of Winn-Dixie's participation in the Community Bag Program for the month of January 2021, at the Hilliard store located at 550969 US-1.

The Westside Senior Life Center, located at 37002 Ingham Road in Hilliard, will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at this location during January, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

The Winn-Dixie Community Bag Program, which launched in February 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with



the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

Learn more about NCCOA and the Westside Senior Life Center by calling 845-3331 or visiting www. nassaucountycouncilonaging.org

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com



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Thursday, December 31 beginning at Dark

(6:00 or 6:30 p.m.)

Hilliard Airpark • 37776 Eastwood Road • Hilliard Fireworks exhibited by "Kynex Inc." FIREWORKS DISPLAY "ONLY" NO VENDORS

Come join us for a great firework show as we welcome in the New Year!

Relax and enjoy the show! Plenty of parking will be available.

No alcoholic beverages or glass containers will be allowed

No public ATVs will be allowed

Empty Bowls Volunteer Leads Team

Alexandra Winsor

Barnabas volunteer. Liza Cotter, was this Empty Bowls year's fundraising event chair. Empty Bowls was set to be a sit-down luncheon, indoors, with hundreds of attendees, as it had been for the past six years. The details were ready to be executed...then COVID-19 hit Nassau County, and everything changed!

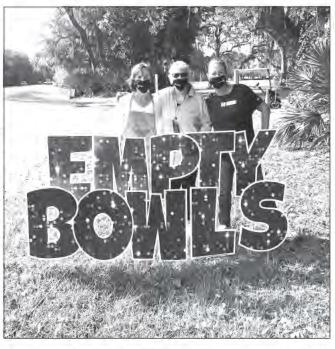
"The Empty Bowls committee immediately began to consider the best way to keep people safe while attending the

event," said Liza. "With the help of our incredible staff, volunteers and committee members, we were able to pivot our ideas. We transformed this event into a drive-through extravaganza, which turned out to be a massive success."

Liza and her husband used to live in California for half the year, but when their house burned down, they decided it was time to move to Amelia Island full time and get more involved in the community. Through associations with the Women's Giving Alliance, Liza met many Barnabas volunteers and staff members who introduced her to the vital programs and services that Barnabas provides to people in need.

"As soon as I learned about Barnabas, I visited the agency to discover what it's all about. Observing the Barnabas programs in action influenced me to get involved - so I signed-up to be a Barnabas volunteer," said Liza.

Liza's volunteer work with Barnabas advanced her into her role as the Empty Bowls event chair. The execution of this year's event was challenging due to the ongoing spread of the coronavirus



pandemic. Liza emphasized how wonderful it was that the community came together safely and put their efforts into making Empty Bowls a

"This event inspired me," said Liza. "Every day as the event chair volunteer, I learned more and more about Barnabas. I saw firsthand what Barnabas does for the community and it's amazing. Whether you painted bowls, volunteered, sponsored or attended the event, you helped Barnabas reach our goal to help people in need and that's what Empty Bowls is about."

When asked what she'd like to convey to others who are considering volunteering at Barnabas, Liza replied, "It's such a good cause. Working oneon-one with people who need help is a wonderful reminder that we need to make sure our neighbors have everything they need. We are one community, and we must help each other."

For information about Barnabas programs or to find out how to get involved with Barnabas, visit www. BarnabasNassau.org.

Seeing the Face of God

Submitted

First and foremost, this is not about me and definitely not for my glory. I just want to share one of the most precious Christmas Gifts anyone can hope to get. No, it's not the latest iPhone, or the latest gaming console. I want to share a recent experience that happened to me here in Callahan.

I am like most everyone, busy with all the Christmas activities such as getting all the presents for friends and family to make sure to bring joy to them. Not truly feeling the joy of Christmas with all the madness associated with the pandemic. I will be honest I haven't been to church since early spring when everything closed. My church had reopened this fall, but since I work and have the potential to be exposed, I hadn't gone back to avoid exposing others and truthfully it got too easy to just stay at home on Sunday doing something else.

My mom asked me to help distribute food for people in need, so my daughter and I volunteered. Like I said earlier not really feeling the joy of Christmas we did it. While passing out the food I was starting to get a discouraged. I saw all kinds of people coming thru the line. Some people were sincerely grateful while others appeared greedy. Others were demanding. I saw people who were driving cars nicer than what I was driving and others with lots of money invested in accessories on their car. After seeing the same car and person come thru for the second time, I had to remind myself that I don't know what has happened to them and where they are at in life. Sometimes that is easier said than done.

We had completed the food drive and we had food left over and someone asked what we should do with the leftover bags of groceries. I suggested we take them to areas of town that could use this food instead of storing it and having it locked up during the holidays

so that people who needed it would have access to the food. We packed several vehicles with food and sent them out in Callahan. My mom and I went to an area of town that we knew could use this food. We asked a lady in church who works with these people to help us. We got there before she did and we saw a family sitting outside so we walked up to them and asked them if they could use some food and they were grateful for it.

Here is where my story takes a turn. As I was walking away, they thanked us, but the youngest child looked at me and said, "Have a blessed Christmas." I stopped and told him Merry Christmas and kept on. The thought of this child wishing me a blessed Christmas stuck with me all day. I had to go take my children Christmas shopping and I kept seeing that boy's face and him saying, "Have a blessed Christmas."

I kept thinking to myself, how does a child, who I imagine has nothing and probably doesn't know where his next meal is coming from, have the foresight to say that to me. It has to be out of pure innocence of that child. The next day I went to church for the first time since the COVID outbreak. The entire time I kept hearing what that boy said to me. At some point in that service, I realized that I saw the face of God in that child. After the service, I went to speak to the lady who I mentioned earlier to see what I can do for that family. While I was telling the story, our pastor came up and heard the story and told me that it was a gift from God.

Wow, it really hit home for me. It opened my eyes to the Reason for the Season. All the material things that we are all worried about and will have forgotten about in a couple of weeks doesn't really mean anything when you see the face of God telling you to have a blessed Christmas in a young child who probably isn't going to have a Christmas tree with gifts under it and his biggest concern could be where his next meal is coming from.

Seeing God's face thru the innocence of that child is the best Christmas gift I can wish for anyone!

Merry Christmas!



ALL fees must be paid by the last sign-up date. For more information, call \$20 Volunteer Fee per family - to be refunded once volunteer duties have been completed Hal Keene at 904-860-1202. \$5 Voter Cards available for purchase during Registration ONLY. Coaches, Umpires and Volunteers Needed!

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Fee increases to \$85 after January 23!









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.

Supreme Court

Dear Editor,

The following is a letter I wrote to all the Supreme Court Justices because they are being told they will be held responsible for "violence in the streets" if they decide to take and make a decision on the legality of accepting electors from the states with corrupted elections. It is very important that their ruling be based only on constitutional law. The public will have to abide by their decision and rely on law enforcement and the second amendment. Below is the letter:

Dear Justice Thomas,

There will be no winner in this herculean decision that you will eventually be presented with. Doing nothing is capitulating with the wrong doers and indeed proving we Americans are unequal under the law. If one is a member of the privileged class we are entitled to different standards as long as what we are doing is perceived as right or good.

It has now become very clear that elements

of the democratic party have cheated during the election. Evidence has been presented and verified that they colluded with current or past department of Justice, FBI, CIA, and possibly foreign officials to corrupt computerized voting machines. At this point, it has gone too far to look the other way. Americans have become wise to the fact of the cheating and have realized it has been going on for more than one election cycle. 'Old News' Americans do not agree with cheating under any circumstances.

We ask the Supreme Court Justices to consider nothing but the rule of Law and follow the U.S. Constitution. That is your responsibility.

Any other circumstance that a rise as a consequence of your decision will be the responsibility of others to deal with. Thank you for your consideration.

> Respectfully, Candace Long Brewer

Quilt Winner Announced

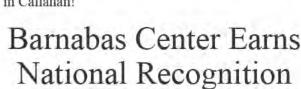
Thank You from the Guild

The Country Star Quilt Guild wishes to extend a huge "Thank You" to everyone who supported our yearly fundraiser by donating toward our beautiful Opportunity Quilt. The winner, of this one of a kind custom quilt, is Helen Henderson of Callahan.

Many thanks as well to Southeastern Bank (Hilliard branch) and the Westside Journal who displayed our quilt and gave extra effort to sell tickets for the guild. The funds raised from this endeavor will help to allow the guild to continue to support The Nest, Pinky Promise, the hospice unit at the VA center in Lake City, items for the

children's units at area hospitals and other local charitable endeavors.

We invite anyone interested in visiting or joining the Country Star Quilt Guild to join us at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month (January 11, 2021) at the Anchor Church of God in Callahan!



Center has been Barnabas recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) and American Medical Association (AMA) for their commitment to helping improve blood pressure (BP) control rates among the patient populations they serve, earning Gold level recognition as part of the 2020 Target: BP™ Recognition Program. The Gold award recognizes practices that have 70 percent or more of their adult patient population with high BP controlled.

Hypertension (high BP) is a leading risk factor for heart attacks, strokes, and preventable death in the U.S. In addition, there are 116 million U.S. adults living with high BP and less than half of those people have their BP under control making both diagnosing and effectively managing hypertension critical. And following the Surgeon General's Call-to-Action to prioritize hypertension control in the U.S. and research in JAMA showing that overall rates of BP control have declined in recent years, optimizing hypertension control could not be more timely or needed.

"Barnabas Health Services is committed to the initiative of improving chronic disease management by providing education, medication, nutrition and treatment to the uninsured/ underserved population. Our goal is to create a healthier community for future generations to come," said Michele Barnabas VandenBossche, Services Manager.

Target: BP is a national collaboration between the AHA and the AMA aimed at reducing the number of Americans who suffer from heart attacks and strokes each year by urging physician practices, health systems and patients to prioritize BP control. The initiative aims to help health care organizations improve BP control rates through use of the evidence-based AMA MAP BPTM quality improvement program, and recognizes organizations committed to improving blood pressure control. The Target: BP Recognition Program celebrates physician practices and health systems, who treat patients with hypertension, for achieving BP control rates at or above 70 percent within the populations they serve. These achievements will ultimately lead to a reduction in the number of Americans who suffer heart attacks and strokes.

Learn more at TargetBP.org.

Free Tree Giveaway

In celebration of Florida Arbor Day, Keep Nassau Beautiful is hosting Free Tree drive-through events. Residents will earn their free trees by completing a brief online training recorded by UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension and registering for their preferred tree species and pick-up location at least 72 hours prior to the event. Those who complete the registration will be offered 1 or 2 free, 3 to 5-gallon, native trees to plant on their property in Nassau County. Liberty Landscape Supply sponsors the supply of trees for the free events.



A KEEP NASSAU BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

Drive-through events will be held in Callahan, Saturday, January 23 from 9 a.m. until noon. Registration is required 72 hours prior to the event. Quantity limited to 500 free trees. Find more details by visiting: www.keepnassaubeautiful.org/newsand-events/ or email: knb@keepnassaubeautiful.org or call 904-261-0165.



904-716-4913

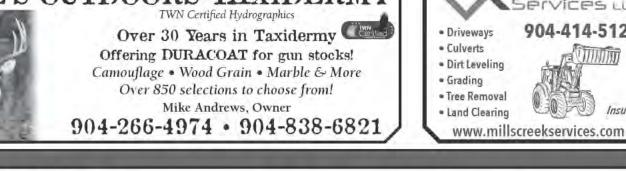
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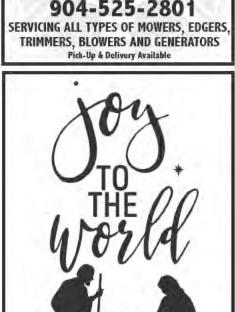
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Santa with a Badge Event!



County Sheriff's Office put on their first ever a Santa with

a Badge event at the Target parking lot in Yulee. The Christmas event gave over 150 children an opportunity to meet Santa, Sheriff Bill Leeper and see NCSO's specialty vehicles and K-9s up close. Santa provided each child with a candy cane (donated by Target, BIO-One and a local family) and Sheriff Leeper gave each a stuffed animal (donated by Pet Smart).

The children were able to tell Santa what's on their wish list for Christmas, as well as take pictures. NCSO also collected canned goods to be donated to the Barnabas food pantry. Thanks to our event sponsors: Target, Pet Smart and many individuals who donated items for the event.



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FACEBOOK

Shop with a Cop Event A Success



Christmas was merrier for 333
Nassau County youngsters who
participated in Shop with a Cop on
December 3 and December 10 at the
Yulee Wal-Mart with deputies and
correctional officers from the Nassau
County Sheriff's Office, troopers
from the Florida Highway Patrol and
officers from the Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Shop with a Cop pairs the officers with children from low-income families with officers who treat them to a spirited day of shopping. The program creates a positive bond between the children and the officers.

"Nothing embraces the Christmas



spirit more than watching children select the toys and books on their wish lists and making sure they have clothes and other necessities," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "We look forward to participating in this event every year and I am very proud of the officers and civilian employees who volunteer their time to make this day

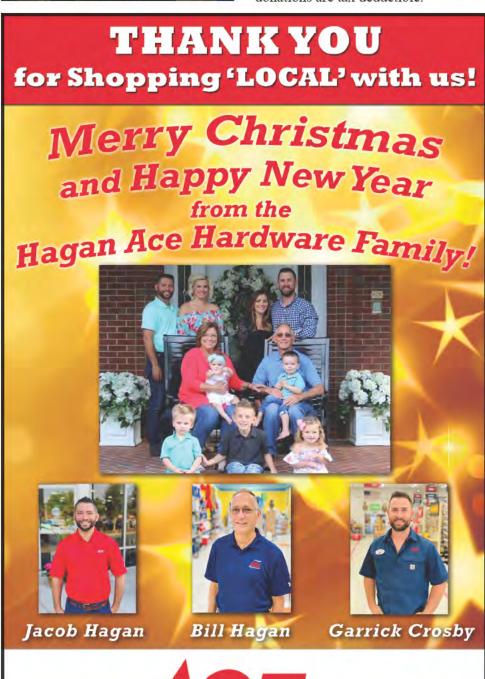
special for these children."

Each child is allotted \$100, half of which they must spend on necessities like clothing, shoes, school supplies,



and other needs. The other half is reserved for toys and other fun items.

The event is made possible by the support of NCSO Charities, Inc., Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance Foundation, Inc., Wal-Mart, the Everett P. Pope Marine Corps League of Nassau County, Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club and many individual donors. To donate to Shop with a Cop please contact Lawanna Ware, Treasurer, at (904) 548-4018. All donations are tax deductible.





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New Beginnings and Milestones



Rian Lee Greene

Lee and Yesny Winkels Greene are proud to announce the birth of their son Rian Lee Greene. Rian was born November 6, 2020 at St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital at 11:52 a.m. He weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces and measured 20 inches.

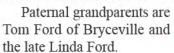
Paternal grandparents are Ken Greene, Sr.; and Dana Greene, both of Callahan.

Maternal grandmother is the late Veronica Mraz.

Rian was welcomed home by his siblings Breanne Winkels and Lillee Greene!

Thomas Walker Ford

Thomas and Dana Ford, of Bryceville, are proud to announce the birth of their son Thomas Walker Ford. Baby Thomas was born November 2, 2020 at UF Health North at 8:35 p.m. He weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces and measured 19 inches.





Maternal grandparents are Ronnie and Teresa Chandler; and Wayne Mann, all of Hilliard.

Baby Thomas was welcomed home by his siblings Forrest and Megan Barrera!

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HMSHS Retirees!



Congratulations Mrs. Charlotte Wolgamott and Mrs. Vickie Whigam on your retirement from Hilliard Middle-Senior High School! These ladies enjoyed a reception held in their honor Wednesday prior to the Christmas break. We appreciate your years of service here at HMSHS!

AMI Project Continues in Hilliard

The Public Works Department employees in the Town of Hilliard have been busy with the AMI project, which includes installing new meters for Hilliard residents. Recently the crew installed the huge Bypass Meter at the Master Meter. Things are going well as the project continues!



Debra Rau to Retire from Wells Fargo

Dawn S. West

After 42 years and four days, Debra Rau will retire from Wells Fargo bank December 31, 2020. Debra, who obviously has been a familiar face at the bank, is ready for the dream to become a reality. "We all look forward to our retirement day and think about it often," said Debra. "Mine is close and I'm ready, and a little scared, but excited to see what the Lord has in store for me!"

Debra began her long career at Lake Forest Atlantic Bank in Jacksonville. Most people from Callahan used that bank as it was the only bank close around. Debra was happy to share that Mrs. Bea Thompson, who recently passed, trained her. "I just loved Mrs. Bea. She was so patient with me!" added Debra.

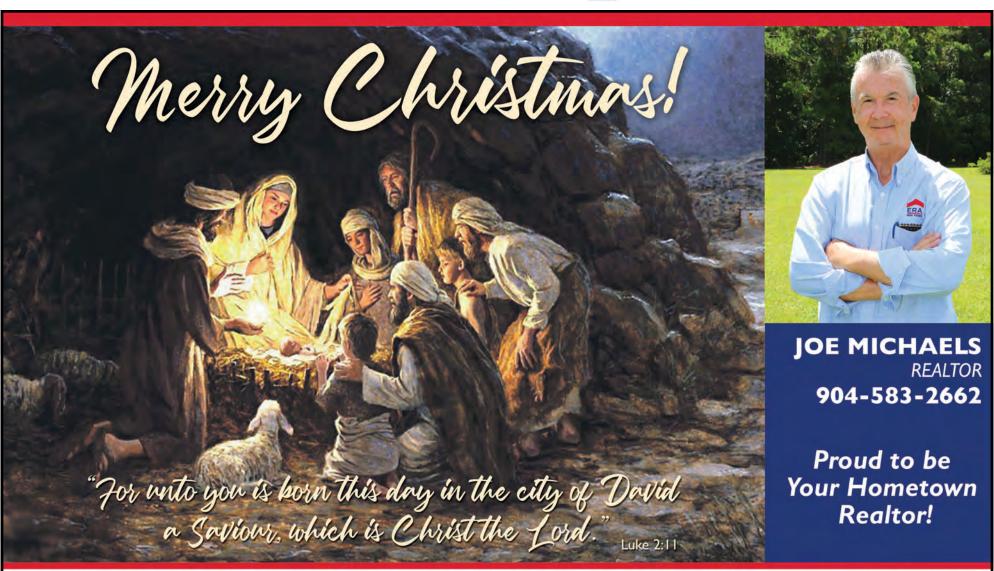
Debra recalls other than her short time in Jacksonville, she has worked in Callahan her entire career. The bank has gone through a few name changes during her time: Atlantic Bank, First Union, Wachovia and Wells Fargo. When she started, she well remembers using adding machines with lots of tape, for everything. Now, with technology advances, everything has moved to computers. We don't even have typewriters anymore! She started, as many do, as a teller and is currently the Manager of the Callahan branch. "What a special career I have enjoyed," continued Debra. "I've been at this branch for 33 years. I've seen so many babies grow up and have children



of their own and so on. Many of my customers have become family as they have helped me through some tough times. I am so blessed!"

She couldn't help but brag on her 'team' at Wells Fargo and how they all work so well together and encourage each other. "This has been an extremely hard year, especially with the pandemic. We've really had to dig deep to keep going," said Debra. "My whole thing is my grandchildren and spending time with them while they want me to. I want to make time to do more things with my church and work around my house. I have lots of thoughts and goals. I feel so blessed to have been here locally. It's so special to be loved by your customers who are friends! I'm ready!"

Look for us on Facebook!



I'm so thankful to have been blessed by so many wonderful clients! May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

- Joe



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Annual NAMI Nassau Shoe Party Delivers



The 29th Annual NAMI Nassau Shoe Party went forward as scheduled despite the presence of a worldwide pandemic. The local Nassau County NAMI volunteers, led by Traci Flugstaff, helped raise donations to host the annual shoe party for over 115 mentally ill adults who reside at Dayspring Village a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility located in Boulounge this past Saturday. "The NAMI Shoe Party this year was a bit different. Shoes and gift bags were delivered for the residents and then made arrangements to have the pizza and chicken wings delivered. The residents absolutely enjoyed the party and the music we played to help them enjoy this annual event," said Douglas Adkins, Executive Director. "The absence of the volunteers was really missed and the live music but we

made up for the impact of COVID with using Alexa and her Holiday Classics station to help fill the room with the joy of Christmas. We also heard from the annual "Dayspring Singers" a tradition started a number of years ago by the DSV staff and continues forward today."

The impact of the

lockdowns and the pandemic has been difficult this year. We have been testing all residents and staff monthly since March and now since the surge in COVID cases we are testing every 10 days until the vaccines are deployed. The residents and staff are ready to end COVID19 and move on with a new year. Dayspring Village has made a decision to require vaccination for all staff and third party providers who serve our residents as part of our continued commitment to keep our residents safe.

Dayspring Village is a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility designed to serve adults with Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorders. To learn more about the facility, visit the website at: www. dayspringvillage.org, contact doug@dayspringvillage.org, or call at 845-7501. AL#5766



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 8

Nidia V. Cruz, 63, 46071 Evelyn Street, Callahan: Violation of Injunction

Thursday, December 10

Taylor Rae Ryals, 20, 43040 Thomas Creek Road, Callahan: DUI Normal Faculties Impaired; Possession of less than 20 grams of Marijuana Thursday, December 17

Carmen Marie Knight, 24, 54078 Explorer Trail, Callahan: Failure to Redeliver a Hired Vehicle

Clay County Man Arrested in Fernandina

After a several month-long investigation, Nassau County Sheriff's Office investigators and the State Attorney's Office charged a Clay County man on Monday, December

14, 2020, with negligent manslaughter. The drugs he sold led to the death of a man from Seattle, who was a former Disney executive living in Fernandina Beach. NCSO investigators arrested Glen Martin Watson, II, 31, from Orange Park, who admitted to selling the drugs to the man.

On June 12, 2020, NCSO deputies responded to 6505 Spyglass Circle, Fernandina Beach, in reference to a possible drug overdose. Nassau County Fire-Rescue responded and pronounced the 48-year-old man deceased.

During the investigation investigators learned that Watson had been selling cocaine to a Seattle, Washington area man, who flew to

Fernandina Beach to live with his parents while he dealt with his drug addiction problems. After finding the man dead from a drug overdose, NCSO deputies said they searched his

cellphone, where they found text messages between him and Watson in reference to purchasing cocaine. NCSO had an undercover detective posing as a buyer purchase narcotics from Watson, which led to his arrest.

Detectives learned the victim met Watson through Watson's girlfriend, who met the victim over the

internet. Watson admitted that he sold the victim cocaine several times a week.

The Duval County Medical Examiner's Office determined the victim died from a fatal combination of cocaine and fentanyl.

Watson is behind bars at the Duval County jail, because he sold the lethal dose of drugs in Jacksonville.

Licensed & Insured Ricky Blalock



Two pedestrians were hit by a truck Saturday night in Hilliard. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, the incident happened at approximately 8:22 p.m. on CR 108 and Pecan Street. A pickup truck driven by a 39-year-old male from Hilliard was eastbound on CR 108 at a high rate of speed. The pedestrians, a 22-year-old male and 21-year-old female from Bryceville, were crossing the roadway from the south shoulder of CR 108 and didn't realize the vehicle was traveling so fast. The truck struck the pedestrians, causing injuries to both and damage to his vehicle. Both pedestrians were transported to UF Health with serious injuries. The accident is still under investigation.





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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.

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experience preferred. Please apply online at www.

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an opening for a Procurement Specialist in the Office

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opening for a Library Assistant II in the Library

Department at \$15.6097 - 23.7524 hourly plus

benefits. Applications will be accepted thru January

4, 2021. To apply please visit www.nassaucountyfl.

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KIMBERLY DIANE ADAMS



Kimberly Diane Adams, 54, of Hilliard, passed away Tuesday, December 15, 2020, in Jacksonville. She was born March 3, 1966 in Jacksonville,

to the late Otis and Clarine King Richardson. She was a homemaker and a member of Paxon Revival Center.

Along with her parents; she was preceded in death by a daughter Christen Dunaway; and two sisters Jeannie Johnson and Regina Lynn Trouille-Richardson; and a brother Geral Lee Richardson.

She is survived by her husband Mark Adams; a son Chad Adams; a grandson Shelton Zachary Dunaway; and two sisters Lisa Richardson and Michelle Mullis.

The family received friends Monday, December 21 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. A graveside service was held Tuesday, December 22 in Pigeon Creek Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardfh.com.

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

JAMES PATRICK CARROLL



James Patrick Carroll, 21, of Callahan, passed away on December 18, 2020 at his residence. He was born in Crystal River, Florida on

October 21, 1999 to his loving parents Louis John Carroll, Jr. and Tammy Young. James was raised in Brooksville and Callahan. He was passionate about music, loved singing and playing his guitar. James also enjoyed games on his phone and playing his PlayStation with friends. He earned his purple belt in Karate and enjoyed the leadership and discipline that the classes taught him. James also enjoyed attending go cart races with his grandfather and friends. More than anything, James loved his family

OBITUARIES

and spending time with them.

James is survived by his parents Louis Carroll, Jr. of Holden, Maine; and Tammy Reynolds of Callahan; brothers Christopher Reynolds of Callahan and Brett Carroll of Maine; paternal grandmother Georgia Carroll; maternal grandparents, Tom Young of Callahan and Nancy Young of Brooksville; aunt Linda Noll; and numerous family members he loved.

His family will cherish his memory privately at their residence.

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

EDWIN DEWITT CONNER



Edwin Dewitt Conner, 92, of Hilliard, passed away Friday, December 18, 2020, in Jacksonville. He was born September 19, 1928 in Kent,

Florida, to the late Berry Vasco Conner and Ruby Nelson Conner. He was a lifelong farmer.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his wife Thelma Stokes Conner; a grandson Jake Conner; a sister Rema Altman; four brothers Norville Conner, Dane Conner, Carlile Conner and Lagree Conner.

He is survived by his sons Twain and Shirley Conner and Ronnie and Janice Conner; a granddaughter Cara (Chad) Brockett; and a great-grandson Hunter Brockett

The family received friends Tuesday, December 22 at Mr. Dewitt's home at 271566 Conner Nelson Road, Hilliard. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 23 at Nathalene Cemetery in Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.

shepardfh.com.

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

WAYNE JOSEPH COYLE



Wayne Joseph Coyle, 27, of Jacksonville, passed away Friday, December 4, 2020. Wayne went to West Nassau High School, loved to fish,

shoot and be around friends and family. He will be missed by all who loved him. Wayne was preceded in death by his mother Sandra Bullins.

He is survived by his wife Kristina; newborn son Wayne, Jr.; father Raymond (Debra) Coyle, Sr.; five sisters; a brother; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and courses

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

Doris A. Geoghagan



Doris Alexander Geoghagan stepped into eternity Sunday, December 6, 2020 at the age of 91. Doris was a native of Jacksonville, where she grew

up, married and raised her family. She spent her retirement years in Hilliard, where she passed peacefully at home.

She was a loving and beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She spent most of her working career as Personnel Manager at Unijax Envelope Company and leaves a legacy of many coworkers, friends and family that were blessed by knowing her. Doris taught Sunday school from young adulthood at East 44th Street Baptist Church through the age of 90 at First Baptist Church of Hilliard. Our world was certainly a better place because she was in it.

Doris was preceded in death by her husband Leroy Geoghagan; and grandson Jackie Farhat; her parents Clara and Fleming Alexander; brother Pat Alexander; and sister Jeannie Alexander.

She leaves behind her son Frank Geoghagan; grandson Josh (Danielle); and great-granddaughters Janelle and Brielle; daughter Cyndi Schmidt; grandson Donald (Hannah) Edwards; and granddaughter Dr. Sharon (Nick) McCartney; and greatgrandchildren Abby, Cam and Carson; her youngest daughter Susan (Jack) Farhat; grandsons Danny Geoghagan, Ian Farhat and David Farhat; and great-granddaughters Lexi, Caitlyn and Kristen Geoghagan.

A visitation was held Friday, December 11 at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 12 at First Baptist Church Hilliard. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery, 4535 Main St., Jacksonville.

Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel, Jacksonville, 904-737-7171

Please sign the guestbook at www. hardagegiddensoaklawnchapel.com.

Paul Thomas May



Paul Thomas May, 81, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away December 15, 2020 at Kindred Hospital in Green Cove Spring. He was born August 24, 1939

to the late Sidney Lee May and Ethel Hasey Phillips May in Hardy, Kentucky. He retired from Ford Motor Company and was a member of Buford Grove Baptist Church. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by three brothers Sidney Ervin May, Jimmy Lee May and Darrel Dean May.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Phyllis Jean Thacker May; children Tammy Lynn May (Bob) Weant and Paul Byron (Caroline) May; two brothers Albert Ray (Judy) May and Johnny Glenn (Loretta) May; two sisters-in-law Katherine May and Hoa May; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Local funeral services were held Sunday, December 20 at Buford Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Curtis Harrington officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Funeral services in Kentucky were held Tuesday, December 22 at the R.E. Rogers Funeral Home Chapel in Belfry. The family received friends prior to the service. Burial followed in Blusprings Free Will Baptist Church Cemetery in Ransom, Kentucky.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston; and R.E. Rogers Funeral Home, Belfry, Kentucky.

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Dalton,

We wish you a Happy Birthday in Heaven, Dalton. There isn't a day that goes by that we do think of you and miss you. We will always be heartbroken until we can see you again. We will love and miss you always.

Happy 25th Birthday

We are sending you our love and hugs. Love always and forever, Daddy and Momma

Happy 25th Birthday Dalton! I love and miss you tremendously.

Always and forever,

Sissy



CURTISS 'GIL' QUARRIER, JR.

Curtiss 'Gil' Gilbert Quarrier, 69, went home to be with the Lord on December 19, 2020. He was born March 26, 1951 in Jacksonville, to Curtiss Quarrier, Sr. and Doris Goedert Quarrier. Gil resided in Callahan for 69 years. He taught agriculture for four years at Callahan Middle School. Following he became a fulltime cattle

Gil was involved in several community organizations including: the Northeast Florida Fair, Nassau County Farm Bureau, Nassau County Cattlemen's Association, and was a founding member of the Nassau County Beekeeper's Association. He loved sharing his passion of agriculture with the community he loved. Gil was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Cathy Quarrier of Callahan; his daughter Martha Quarrier of Callahan; his son Curtiss Quarrier of Callahan; his sister Lyn Chastain of Fort Worth Texas; and an Aunt Lucy Parks of Jacksonville.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Wednesday, December 23 at Callahan Funeral Home with Pastor Randy Ray officiating.

Pallbearers were: Malcom Adams, James 'Jimmy' Bennett, Jeff Braddock, Kenny Farmer, Thomas Ford, David Hartsfield and Keith Wingate. Honorary pallbearers were the directors of the Northeast Florida Fair Association, directors of Nassau County Farm Bureau and Nassau County Beekeepers Association.

Burial followed at Higginbotham Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. callahanfh.com.

Arrangements by Callahan Funereal Home, 879-2336.

MARY ELIZABETH ROGERS



BERT

Mary Elizabeth Rogers, 79, went home to be with the Lord on December 16, 2020. She was born on September 28, 1941 in Lake Butler, Florida, to Clifford

Douglas and Juanita Courson. Mary moved to Callahan in 1969 with her husband and two children. Mary was a member of Callahan Church of Christ and enjoyed attending services there. Mary worked as a bus driver and bus route coordinator for the Nassau County School Board for 41 years. She enjoyed traveling and liked to collect

OBITUARIES

things from her adventures. She especially enjoyed the holidays and anytime she could cook and spend time with her family. She is preceded in death by her parents; a brother Clayton Douglas; and sister Marie Sheffield.

Mary is survived by her husband of 60 years, Billy Rogers of Hazlehurst, Georgia; her son Ronald Rogers of Callahan; daughter Kim Rowell of Blackshear; three grandchildren Ashley (Luke) Law, Kelli (Miles) Stutsman and Ronald Rogers, Jr.; and one great-grandchild Declan Law.

Pallbearers were Ronald Rogers, Ronald Rogers, Jr., Luke Law and Miles Stutsman.

A celebration of Mary's life was held Monday, December 21 at Nassau Funeral Home. The family received friends prior to

Interment followed at Satilla Freewill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. nassaufh.com

Nassau Funeral Home assisted the family, 879-1770.

Joseph P. Sandiford, Jr.

Joseph Patrick Sandiford, Jr., 25, passed away on December 18, 2020.

Arrangements are currently pending. Please follow www.nassaufuneralhome. com for updates.

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It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother, Gladys Elizabeth Thornton, who was called

home to the Lord Friday, December 11, 2020, after attaining the prestigious age of 91. She was preceded in death by her husband Ernest Phillip Thornton, Sr.; a son Jerry Wayne; and all of her siblings.

She is survived by two sons Ernest Phillip, Jr. and Daniel Terry; a daughter Linda Gayle; five grandchildren Louie, Tracy, Andrea, Jerry and Amy; as well as numerous great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Gladys was born on August 4, 1929 in Daisy, Georgia. She grew up in the areas of Screven, Blackshear, and Baxley, the second oldest of seven children. She moved to Jacksonville at the age of 16, accompanied by her older sister, Margaret, where they rented a room downtown and took jobs at a shoe factory. A year or two later, Gladys went to work at King Edward Cigar Factory, where she met her husband for life, Ernest Phillip Thornton. They married in the summer of 1948 and Gladys left the cigar factory to settle into a life of homemaking and motherhood. She returned to King Edward years later and remained until her retirement in 1994.

She was passionate about her family, always putting God and her children first. Gladys Thornton was no stranger to the concept of self-sacrifice. The Thornton family endured their share of hard times and Gladys never faltered or failed to make the necessary sacrifices to ensure her children were loved and provided for. She carried that same passion and devotion to the next two generations; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who affectionately call her "Nanny." She remained active in their lives, even throughout the declining health of her latter days. Gladys was known for her kind and generous heart, a work ethic that was nothing less than herculean and a resilience an dogged toughness that was truly heroic. Though we lay her mortal body to rest, the love, warmth and memories that Gladys inspired within this family is very much alive and will remain so forevermore.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Thursday, December 17 at Nassau Funeral home with Pastor Rodney Keith officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville.

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

LARRY VAUGHT



Larry Vaught, 84, passed away peacefully on Monday. December 21, 2020 surrounded by loved ones at Community Hospice. Larry Scott Vaught

was born on April 3, 1936 in Central City, Kentucky, to Fuqua and Eddith Vaught.

Larry worked as a Computer Programmer and Programming Manager for Trans-Tel for 35 years and later served as the Finance Director for Nassau County Sherriff's Office for 10 years. Larry served in the United States Army's 26th Infantry Regiment until 1960 and was honorably discharged after serving overseas in Germany. Larry enjoyed reading and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Throughout his life, Larry was a dedicated and avid supporter of Kentucky Wildcat basketball and St. Louis Cardinals baseball, Larry leaves behind a legacy of quick, witty responses, creating a jingle out of anything, silly jokes and a love of chocolate. His kindness and abiding love will be dearly missed by friends and family.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 65 years, Freida of Jacksonville; three children; son Eric (Saundra), daughter Inga (Rick) and son Chad (Diana); his brother Donald; sister Carol (Dale); together, Larry and Freida have 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his sister Linda. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

A private graveside will be held at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes memorial contributions to be made to the Children's Home Society of Florida, 3027 San Diego Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

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

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







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OREMC to Modify Operations Beginning December 28

Due to the steady rise in COVID-19 infection rates in the Okefenoke REMC service area and the anticipated post-holiday spike health officials are warning about, OREMC has decided to



revert to modified operations beginning Monday, December 28. This means:

- All OREMC lobbies will be closed to walk-in customer service. Drive-thru windows will remain open.
- All employees working in business support functions that can be performed remotely will be required to telecommute.
 - Line crews will work staggered shifts.

"Our communities have seen a steady increase in the number of people testing positive or having direct exposure to someone testing positive for COVID-19," says OREMC General Manager John Middleton. "For the health and safety of all our employees, their families and our consumer-members, resuming modified operations seems the most prudent thing to do. Hopefully these operational adjustments will prevent the spread of virus among our OREMC family and enable us to remain ready to respond in the event of an outage or other emergency."

In addition to the drive-thru windows, OREMC consumer-members can connect online at oremc.com, using the MyOREMC mobile app on their phones or by calling Customer Service at 800-262-5131. Customer Service Representatives are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Seniors Enjoy Take-Out Lunch

The Westside Senior Center was quiet last Friday and has been since March. Our sweet seniors haven't been able to attend the center since the pandemic. Now, they will not return until the renovations are complete at the center, probably sometime in July!

We, the Westside Journal, still provided a Christmas meal of ham, potato salad, green beans and banana pudding. Instead of having a wonderful fun Christmas party, we joined with members of the Council on Aging to fix





the meals and deliver them to the homes of some of the seniors. Two Meals on Wheels trucks were loaded and presents loaded in cars following to deliver to welcoming seniors. There were smiles when we arrived!

Hopefully next year we'll be able to return to our normal party!

Local Author Publishes A Book



Newly published author and blogger, Linda Hiles, has received starred reviews for latest book on Amazon. Available Now! Her book, "NO

MORE!" is insightful! A creative memoir, that translates as a compelling narrative nonfiction. It teaches, without preaching, how to live through the pain of offense, without crippling your future.

"We possess the power to say, "NO" at a very early age, but to what extent? As a young child we are taught to scream, to run away from strangers, but there are no weapons that aid against molestation. A child's "No" isn't powerful enough to stand up against its dominance. Instead, we find ourselves defenseless, lacking a voice under such weight.

When Linda said, "No" for the umpteenth time, but the abuse continued, she assumed that her lot was cast and sought other means of coping. She gave that offense residence. His secret became hers. She adopted the evil deposited and buried her soul. Insecurities were formed where childlike wonder once grew. It began to plague her life and threatened to debilitate her future. But God had other plans...

Linda Hiles, a wife of 34 years, mother of three beautiful daughters and a new homesteader with eleven chickens, lives on 18 acres of beautiful country in Callahan, with her husband Russell.

You can also visit her on her website, LindaHilesWrites.com.



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Next Level Flash: Lee Signs with Missouri State

Holden McMillen

There comes a time in a young athlete's life that brings a level of joy and pressure about what their future may hold. All the time spent in the weight room, grinding and getting stronger. All the wind sprints, sprinting up and down the bleachers, pushing yourself further and faster than you ever thought was possible. All the hard work, preparation, dedication to perfecting your craft has led to this moment: National Signing Day. It is a moment every young athlete dreams of when playing a sport of their choice, signing the letter of intent to the school of their choice. For Hilliard Middle-Senior High School senior, Tywuan Lee, the moment has arrived, as he puts the pen to paper and signs with a school of his choice.

Lee has officially signed with the Missouri State University Bears, a NCAA Division I school based in Springfield, Missouri. Wednesday at the school witnessed by family, coaches and friends! It is the third largest city in the entire state, behind Kansas City and St. Louis. The Bears are a part of the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. Some notable schools Missouri State competes with yearly are some of the heavy hitters like North Dakota State, Illinois State, Youngstown State, University of Northern Iowa and Western Illinois University. The head coach of Missouri State is Bobby Petrino.

"Excited, really excited," said Tywuan after signing with Missouri State. Over his high school career, he has accumulated over 2,500 yards



rushing, 1,000 all-purpose yards and 42 touchdowns. He was named the Class 1A, District 5 Player of the Year in 2019-20 and is a nominee for the award after the 2020-21 season. Tywuan learned about the offer from Missouri State 10 days ago. He committed to them on Saturday, December 5 to Missouri State as an athlete, which means he doesn't have a set position until he arrives on campus in early summer.

"They took a chance on me," said Tywuan. "They have a good head coach that can get a lot out of me. I'm really excited about playing for Coach Petrino. He knows NFL talent and knows what to expect. The recruiting process was good. Of course, COVID made it difficult, but the process was good."

Because of the ongoing pandemic, college recruiting has been difficult to conduct. Under the current pandemic-imposed NCAA restrictions, schools have prevented any face-to-face interactions with college coaches and high school recruits. Also, college

coaches can't visit high schools.

"Tywuan started his varsity football career in 8th grade," said Hilliard Head Coach John Pate. "He was an exceptional athlete and had the potential to move up to varsity in 8th grade. He's a great player on offense, defense and special teams."

"Coach Pate has helped me a lot," added Tywuan. "He has helped me as an

athlete and a person. He gets the most out of me."

"I'm very happy. I'm very proud. He is his own person and is very driven," said Tywuan's mother. "Just do your best and remember that you have support back home. We love you."

"He will go in there and prepare hard," added Coach Pate. "He will have a chance to be successful and to get bigger and stronger in a Division I weight room and program. He is an athlete who is versatile, high character, high energy and a model citizen."

When asked about his favorite football memory, he made a reference to his junior year and the playoff victory against Branford. It was an overtime thriller that saw Hilliard beating Branford 34-33 in the first round of the 2019 playoffs. It was Hilliard's first playoff

appearance since 2014 and their first home playoff game since 2004.

"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet," said Coach Pate.
"You've worked hard for this and are a model of preparation. Keep working hard and keep preparing. I look forward to following your success every step of the way."

Tywuan shared a special message as he prepares for his next level, "Work hard. If you work hard, good things will happen. Don't let people tell you no. Don't let people tell you that you can't go to college. Believe in yourself!"

As a community, we are proud of how far Tywuan has come. From moving up to varsity in 8th grade to signing his letter of intent with Missouri State his senior year. He has worked hard and earned his way to where he is today. We are excited to see what he will do in the next level and beyond, not just as an athlete, but as a human being and a model citizen. Best of luck, to Tywuan and his family, as he prepares to play collegiate football at the next level.

Go Flashes and best of luck Tywuan!



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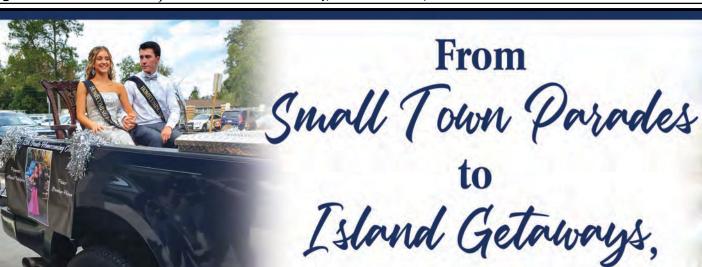
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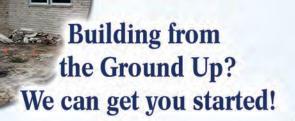
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Congratulations David Bandelin, Realtor® and Heather Hagan, Realtor® Watson Realty Corp. for making Top List Team for November!





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