

“BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, “DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY; YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD. YOU WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU ARE TO CALL HIM JESUS.” - LUKE 1:30-31

50th Annual Callahan Christmas Parade a Success

John Hendricks

The 50th Annual Callahan Christmas Parade was held last Saturday. Hundreds of people lined the streets to await the beginning of the parade despite ‘misty’ weather. The West Nassau Historical Society would like wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and to thank all the groups and individuals who helped us put on the 50th Callahan Christmas Parade and Official Craft Fair. We hope everyone enjoyed the largest parade ever to make its way through Callahan as well as the 85-vendor Craft Fair. We want to thank everyone for their patience while we dealt with the threatening weather forecast on the days leading up to the parade. The weather held off until we safely completed the



procession and most of the craft fair. We were so honored to have Grand Marshal Raymond Fachko; and Honorary Grand Marshal WWII Veteran Elliott Jones at 100 years old. Santa and Mrs. Claus brought Christmas to Callahan and Nassau County and they are now on their way back to the North Pole. It is a labor of love for we are an all-volunteer nonprofit and this is our way of giving back to the community.

We also would like to thank our supporters who helped us with this year's parade: CSX Transportation, Florida Power and Light, Town of Callahan, Vystar Credit Union, Callahan First

Baptist, Anchor Church, Southeastern Baptist Bank, Schwend Insurance, Hagan Ace Hardware, Joel Pace Piano, UF Health-Callahan and Meridian Waste.

Without further ado, here are the winners of this year's 50th Callahan Christmas parade: BEST THEMED FLOAT: 1st Place Our Lady Of Consolation Catholic Church; 2nd Place Friendship Alliance Church; 3rd Place Gray Gables Baptist Church; and 4th Place Live Oak Baptist Church. BEST OVERALL DECORATION/ CREATIVITY FLOAT: 1st Place Town of Callahan; 2nd Place Callahan First Baptist Church; 3rd Place LUX All



Stars; and 4th Place Cub Scouts Pack 351. BEST-IN-STEP: West Nassau High School Marching Band. BEST HORSE GROUP: North Florida Trail Riders. BEST NON-FLOAT VEHICLE: Max Egerer Family, 1958 Chevy Bel Air.

Again, thank you to all who participated in the Golden Anniversary Edition of the Callahan Christmas parade and from all of us here at the West Nassau Historical Society, Merry Christmas, Callahan and Nassau County.

See more parade photos on page 6.

Groundbreaking at Tuscan Rose Vineyards

Tuscan Rose Vineyards is a staple on the west side of Nassau County and the local owners are trailblazers for the community. Tuscan Rose Vineyards is an elegant, Italian-inspired event venue located in Callahan off of Bismark Road. The beautiful venue has 25-acres surrounded by muscadine vineyards, seasoned oak trees, rose gardens, and Italian cypress trees. Owner, Bobbie Walker, is inspired by the importance of family, which is why Tuscan Rose Vineyards continues to be family-owned and operated. Her lineage in Callahan dates back 75 years and it reflects in her work within the property. Tuscan Rose Vineyards offers delicious muscadine juice, cider, jelly, and jam made right from their vineyards. Bobbie remembers as a small child, standing in her grandfather's muscadine vineyard



eating grapes. “That was the moment it all began. Loving the taste of the sweet grapes and being surrounded by the warmth of the vines is an everlasting memory,” said Bobbie.

Tuscan Rose Vineyards has been

recently approved to sell wine. The two-year long process of working with Nassau County, attending public hearings, rezoning, meetings and much more, they have finally been approved. Friday, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Tuscan Rose Vineyards to start the building process for the extension of their onsite winery. County Commissioners Klynt Farmer, Hupp Huppman and John Martin were all on hand along with Nassau County Economic Development Board Executive Director Sherri Mitchell for the groundbreaking.

As you can see from the pictures,



it is a beautiful setting for a winery. Local artist Brenda Schwend painted a beautiful portrait of what will eventually fill the area of pasture land and oak trees. As with anything, the process will take time and Bobbie plans to take it one day at a time. “I feel so blessed to be able to complete this dream,” said Bobbie. “I appreciate you all coming out to see what the future holds for this beautiful land. Thank you!”

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

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A Word
From the Publisher

Accolades to the West Nassau Historical Society for a terrific 50th Annual Callahan Christmas Parade and Craft Fair! It was a huge success. Despite the ‘misty’ weather, I never saw a sad face the entire time. From the time I arrived in Callahan, the streets were lined with hundreds of people, young and old, making sure they had their spot reserved for the annual event. Though the sidewalks were packed with people, everyone was still being cordial, laughing and talking with each other. There’s nothing much better than small town living. I’m so thankful to be a small part of it!

Last week, I was thrilled to reconnect with a classmate. She walked into our office and said my name and I immediately knew who she was. We probably talked and laughed for at least 30 minutes or more. It was just like we had never been apart. I don’t think we have seen each other since we graduated some forty plus years ago. I’m so thankful she walked in that door...it was such a treat for both of us! I can’t wait until we meet up again.

Christmas time brings those thoughts of family and friend gatherings and of course food! Last Sunday night, we enjoyed the West Christmas and had a wonderful time. Of course, we can’t help but think of Mom West and what a special lady she was and the impact she left on all of our lives in some way. It’s so much fun to see all the grown children with their babies and grown children. I’m not sure how that has happened so quickly. Again, it was like we have not been apart even though for many it has been a year and some more than a year.

We have certainly learned to take one day at a time and enjoy every opportunity we have to spend with someone or just talk to someone. We never know if that will be the last time you have that opportunity.

As we all prepare to celebrate Christmas with our family and friends, let’s not forget the real reason for Christmas. It’s all about Jesus! As we discussed Mary, Jesus’ mother on Sunday, we talked about her being a young girl who was pregnant, unmarried and never been with a man. The thoughts that must have gone through her head must have been crazy. I think sometimes we think that the Bible is just a story and it is. It is a story of real people that lived long ago and went through some really horrible times. These people however witnessed the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. They watched Him walk on this earth and preach, teach and heal. They also watched Him be crucified for us.

He, a real man, took on our sins and died. But...he rose on the third day. I’m not sure why some of us (including me) wait until they get my age before we really understand how awesome it is to be a child of the King! Death is a horrible thing and I’ve watched two of my brothers go through it. But I have the confidence in knowing that both of them are free of pain and in the arms of Jesus today. Having Jesus gives us more than we could ever buy. Want a perfect Christmas...ask Jesus in your heart today! He’s knocking at your heart’s door. Just answer!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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Callahan Town News

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of 2023. The first order of business was for the council to choose a couple of dates to have their joint meeting with the Nassau County School Board. The council meets with the school board each year to discuss any school related issues, such as the Callahan Elementary traffic, and come up with solutions. The council chose February 5 or February 20 at 6 p.m. prior to the town’s normal meeting at 7 p.m.

The council also approved the 2024 calendar with only one correction - to take the Monday, July 1 meeting off, due to the July 4th holiday.

In closing comments, Mayor Randy Knagge advised the council that this Saturday, December 9, the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor the Movie at Ewing Park at 5 p.m. Movie attendees can receive a hot dog and cookie and enjoy the movie. There will also be food vendors on site for food purchases. Next Saturday, December 16, the Fire Department

will hold their Annual Santa Run. The firetrucks will be driving slowly through Callahan neighborhoods, giving out candy and presents to children! People are requested to bring an unwrapped present to town hall for the Santa Run!

Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming advised the council that the parade was great and the town float was amazing! “Thank you to the town works department for all their hard work!” said Fleming. “I was happy to see that the town won First Place in the Best Overall Decoration/Creativity Float!”

Councilwoman Janet Shaw asked Town Manager Mike Williams if FPL had been contacted about the seven Christmas lights that are not working?

“I have contacted FPL four times today. I will contact another representative tomorrow,” said Williams.

The next meeting of the council will be Tuesday, January 2, 2024 due to the Monday New Year’s Day holiday, at 7 p.m.

FREE WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY DINNER
5 p.m. • Callahan Methodist Church • Walk up
Located beside Callahan Elementary School

In the Kitchen... Bacon Ranch Cheese Ball

6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled	4 green onions, chopped
2 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese, softened	3 tablespoons chopped black olives
1 (1 oz.) package buttermilk Ranch dressing mix	1 ½ cups chopped pecans (Optional)
¾ cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese	

Cook, crumble and chop bacon, set aside. Stir together the cream cheese and ranch dressing mix in a bowl until smooth. Add the bacon, Cheddar cheese, green onions, and olives; stir until well combined. Shape the mixture into a ball and roll in the chopped pecans. Refrigerate overnight. Serve with your favorite party crackers.

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Meet Windstream’s New Direct Consumer Specialist Jenna Dean

Windstream is thrilled to introduce their newest Direct Consumer Specialist, Jenna Dean, who will be transforming the broadband landscape in the local area. Jenna Dean is a local and lives in our community. The newly appointed representative is ready to bring their wealth of experience, expertise and enthusiasm to the community, aiming to provide the best possible broadband service to every customer. “I have been a Windstream customer for years and I plan to bring a first-class experience to the local community that I know and love! I will be going door to door in our area, so I wanted to let people know that I am not a porch pirate. Their Amazon, UPS, and FedEx packages are safe,” said Jenna.

Jenna joined Windstream with a strong background in sales and a proven track record of providing exceptional customer service. She was chosen from a competitive pool of candidates due to her dedication to client satisfaction and her deep understanding of the broadband industry. Her primary role will be to build strong relationships with customers by going door to door, offering personalized solutions to meet their unique needs. Drawing from the latest sales strategies, she will aim to

provide an unrivaled client experience, protecting and growing Windstream's customer base in the local area.

In the spirit of Windstream's commitment to continuous improvement and excellence, Jenna will also undergo regular training to keep her skills sharp and stay updated on the latest developments in the industry. The company's strategy includes a strong emphasis on ongoing training, including new and concurrent sessions that cover everything from creating the plan to handling customer calls effectively.

Jenna is looking forward to meeting customers, understanding their needs, and offering tailored solutions that improve their broadband experience. She is fully committed to upholding Windstream's reputation for delivering reliable, high-speed internet, and superior customer service.

As Jenna Dean steps into her role, Windstream continues to be dedicated to providing the best possible broadband service to its customers in the local area and beyond. Please feel free to call her directly for any special promotions or offers at (904) 703-3462 or email: Jenna.Dean@windstream.com.



Thank You!

On behalf of Pentecostal Assemblies of Hilliard on Oxford Street, a big thank you to all who donated to helping the homeless in our area. Also, for our Westside Journal who is so kind to help us get the word out. May God bless all who are mindful of those who are homeless. "Our Lord said if we do it unto the least of these, we have done it unto Him." Amen, Deanna Hadden

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Can you feel it in your bones? Do you feel the anticipation that something big is on the horizon? I do, I'm not sure what but it's coming ready or not. I fear (not scared) that the United States of America is either on the verge of a great renewing of faith and patriotism or we are heading into the greatest turmoil any of us have ever witnessed. You can bet your money that 2024 is going to be turbulent to say the least. America is now officially at the cross roads of survival or doom. The leftists are determined to change the course of what our nation was founded upon. They hate the real "America," they hate our Judo-Christian values, they hate our capitalism, they hate our freedom at least what's left of it, they hate just to hate. Yet they stay right here because deep inside they know there is nowhere else in this world they can enjoy what America gives them and allow their open dialogue of hate.

The new majority Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson gave a speech via a podcast last week that was like nothing I have ever heard from an elected official. It was more like a sermon you would expect to hear on

Sunday morning. He began by asking a question, "Is God going to allow our nation to enter a time of judgement for our collective sins which His mercy and grace have held back for some time or is He going to give us one more chance to restore the foundation, to return to Him?" He went on to say that the moral values are at the lowest point ever in our history. Through our founding fathers, with the words of our constitution we know our allegiance and accountability was to God yet we walked away. He states that in Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by name, will humble themselves and pray..." in terms and understand that I will heal their land. But are we going to do that?

Just know that 2024 is more than just an election year and who you will vote for as president of the once greatest nation in the world. It is the year that everyone needs to get on their knees and seek forgiveness and ask God to bless America again. Our future belongs solely on us. We can collectively repent and turn from our wicked ways or we can suffer the chaos that will surely come our way.

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



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Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



One of our church-goers, Lisa Eady, said to me we should make a float for the Callahan Christmas Parade. We found out that the theme for this year's parade would be "A Story Book Christmas." Part of me wanted us to do "A Charlie Brown Christmas." But, that's really more of a TV special than a 'story book.' Then someone suggested Narnia. I mean, it had everything we were looking for: it's a series of books, it's a Christmas story (you may recall the character Father Christmas gives the four children gifts), C.S. Lewis, its author is regarded as one of the most influential Christian apologists of his time, and most importantly, it tells the most important story of all time. It was a lot of work by many people to build the float, but it was an incredible experience. We ended up winning Second Place in the Best Themed Float category.

What I enjoyed most was the reactions of people as our float approached them. I was driving the truck towing the float, so I got to hear people's first reactions: "Oh my gosh, it's Narnia", "I love that movie", and "Look at the cute little beaver costumes." It was an exciting time for sure. But, during my driving, I wish I could stop and tell people what The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe is really about.

[SPOILER ALERT] If you haven't seen the movie, upon entering the world of Narnia one of the 4 children, Edmund, meets the White Witch and is persuaded to bring his siblings to her. He betrays his family and some of the local Narnians for the promises of sweet treats. The White Witch comes to Aslan, the Lion, and tells him that according to the "Deep Magic from the Dawn of Time," she has the right to execute Edmund for his crimes. Aslan makes a deal with her to spare Edmund's life, but it will cost him his own. Aslan willingly goes to the Stone Table to be humiliated and executed by the White Witch.

Many have noticed and some have missed that this story is an allegory to human kind and Jesus Christ. Edmund in the story represents you and me and everyone in the world. We have all betrayed the God who existed before the dawn of time through our sin. And much like Edmund, the wages of [our] sin is death, Romans 6:23. And much like Aslan, Jesus Christ willingly chose to lay down His life for our saying: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11. And after Christ pays for our sin on the cross, he appears again on the earth, resurrected! If you haven't seen the movie or read the book recently, you may want to give it a look. While you do so, compare Aslan to Jesus and be reminded of who Christ is and what He has done for us.

Callahan Movie at Ewing Park Saturday



The Callahan Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting the Movie in the Park this Saturday with the event beginning around 5:30 p.m. and movie time at 6:30 p.m. The movie is Arthur Christmas! There will be Letters to Santa; FREE hot dogs, cookies and hot chocolate and also food vendors to purchase food. Overflow parking will be behind Callahan Timber located on SR 200.

Hilliard Assembly to Host Allen Griffin



Hilliard First Assembly will be hosting speaker Allen Griffin Sunday, December 10 during the morning service. Allen Griffin is one of the most influential and effective speakers today. His dynamic presentation is both humorous and insightful. His message has led thousands to be eternally changed and empowered to in turn reach others.

Griffin will be speaking and sharing God's word this Sunday, December 10 at 10 a.m. at Hilliard First Assembly of God, 550920 US Highway 1, a quarter of a mile south of the caution light at Eastwood Road in Hilliard. For more information, call 904-845-2642.

Join the Friends of the Callahan Library

Join us for the Friends of the Callahan Library informational meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 6 p.m. at the Callahan Library! Connect with fellow book enthusiasts, share ideas and support your local library. All are welcome! Mark your calendars and be a part of fostering an active library community!

CHURCH NEWS

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US-1, Callahan, will host a free "Breakfast with Santa" Saturday, December 9 from 8 - 11 a.m. There will be Christmas crafts to make and you can take a picture of your child with Santa.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US Hwy. 1, Sunday services are Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. All are welcome.

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An Easy Approach to Christmas Gifts

Yvette Outler

Gift giving can be so tough! What do I get them? I want to find the right gift that will make them smile. There is no better time than the present (pardon the pun) to help your kids get in on your Christmas budget.

To simplify your gift giving this season you can have your children give you a need, read, wear, and share request. As you explain this, incorporate a set dollar amount for each request. Here are ideas for each:

1. Need: There seems to always be a legitimate need. He may need a new pair of tennis shoes, backpack, or winter coat.

2. Read: Books are so much fun. They help our kids or grandkids take a trip without leaving the living room. Find out what genre they like and then make your purchase. Sam's and Costco have affordable collections for kids. On the inside cover, be sure to write a little note, date and sign your name.

3. Wear: This can be anything you wear. To make it extra easy on you, have them send you a link. Thoughts for items to wear: Pajamas, socks, shoes, jacket, coat, jeans, pants, hats, sunglasses, jewelry, or an outfit for a special occasion, like a Christmas party. My daughter is about to move to New York. I bought her wool socks to keep her feet warm. This was both a need and a wear request.

4. Share: We like it when our kids share. Let us provide them with



an intentional opportunity to have something that they can share. Here are sharable ideas: A DVD (host a movie night), A bag of candy, ingredients to bake cookies, or a gift card for them and their best friend to spend at Five Below. If money is tight and you do not have money for this request, you can sign up to work at a local food bank to share your time. Your time is the most precious gift you could ever give away.

Giving them a set dollar amount also gives them responsibility for working a budget. We are never too young to learn about money. As you bless your kids, I pray that this Christmas is full of joy, laughter and may Christ be in the center of everything you do!

Author Meet & Greet, New Book, Share My Words - God, Hagan Ace Hardware, Callahan. December 9 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Solution Master Financial Coach. If you are in over your head in debt and need hope and help, contact her at Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sauls Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Charles and Debbie Sauls, of Hilliard, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary December 7. They were married December 7, 1973 in Jacksonville, by Reverend Walter Bowers. They are enjoying retirement and staying involved in their church, Anchor Church of God in Callahan. They plan to celebrate



their special milestone with their children and grandchildren with a celebratory dinner that will include many special memories of the past and enthusiasm for the future.

They are blessed with three children Amy (Tommy), Rebekah, and Wayne (Amanda); and four grandsons Daniel, Luke, Maddox and Hudson.



Nick Clark Fundraiser Saturday



A Fundraiser Yard Sale will be held this Saturday, December 9 at Sweet As Cyn, 542432 US 1, Callahan, from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All proceeds will go directly to Nick Clark and his wife, Renee. Sweet As Cyn will also be donating 10% of their sales Saturday to the Fundraiser. Monetary donations are welcome and appreciated.

Nick is a Hilliard resident that has been very involved in the community for many years by coaching youth football and Little League baseball. He has given his time and talents to young athletes, now it's time to help him and his family through this difficult time.

Nick, a US Navy Veteran, is currently battling the sudden onset of MDS and AML and is fighting for his life. He has been hospitalized for over 50 days is going through chemotherapy treatments for this aggressive cancer.

Gardening Tips for Poinsettias

The Callahan Garden Club suggests these tips for keeping your Christmas poinsettia healthy throughout the season:

Poinsettias do best on a porch or in a window with indirect sunlight for at least 6 hours per day.

If indoors, a room temperature of 65-70 degrees are best; keep them away from cold drafts and excessive heat.

Water thoroughly only when the surface of the soil is dry to the touch; do not water too frequently.

Indoors, fertilize lightly only every 4-6 weeks.

In April, when the leaves begin to deteriorate and fall off, cut the plant back and give it sun, water and fertilizer regularly.

Enjoy one of the most beautiful plants of the season!



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TRU-FI
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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.

Wednesday, November 22

James Harvey Smith, III, 69, Callahan: Failure to Appear

Thursday, November 23

Christopher James Adams, 36, Hilliard: Out of State Warrant Felony; Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams; Driving while License Suspended with Knowledge

Monday, November 27

Karl Joseph Schaffer, 33, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

Thursday, November 30

Benjamin Cecil Cox, 59, Callahan: Failure to Appear

Friday, December 1

Dwayne Ray Rageth, 37, Hilliard: Battery by Strangulation

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

Millions of Americans have early Virginia ancestry. Many of these colonial immigrants have thousands, some hundreds of thousands, living descendants. Some surnames of these families are Bacon, Carter, Harris, Lee, Morgan, Page, Taylor, Washington and Warren. You can Google 'First Families of Virginia' and see a much larger list of names.

The West Nassau Genealogical Society meets the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors all always welcome!

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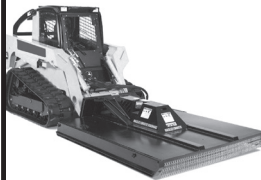
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GWENDOLYN BROWARD

Gwendolyn Broward, 81, of Callahan, passed away December 4, 2023 at UF Health Jacksonville. She was born August 6, 1942 in Lawtey, Florida to the late Ernest Raulerson and Loca Cannon Raulerson. Gwen and the love of her life, Edward, wed on July 11,1964 and were happily married for 59 years. Together they shared two children, Tamara and Theron. Gwen was a retired nutrition educator for the University of Florida and a homemaker. She enjoyed cooking, canning, and sewing but more than anything Gwen loved to spend time with her family. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother that will be missed dearly. Gwen was preceded in death by her parents; and granddaughter Laura Dinkins.


Gwen is survived by her loving husband, John Edward Broward; children Tamara (David) Dinkins and Theron Broward; brothers Marklee Raulerson; sisters Alice Petrey; grandchildren Michael (Chelsie) Dinkins, Jonathan (Alyssa) Dinkins and Ella Dinkins; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, December 6 at Callahan Church of Christ with Bro. Bill Leonard officiating. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Callahan Church of Christ in Gwen’s honor, 45137 S. Mickler Street, Callahan, FL 32011.

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

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

OBITUARIES




JESSE C. ‘TOPPER’ CREWS

Jesse C. ‘Topper’ Crews, 69, of Fernandina Beach, passed away November 24, 2023 at Community Hospice Warner Center, due to Parkinson’s disease related complications.

Topper was born and raised in Fernandina Beach, Florida where he grew up with his beloved friends. He proudly served his country in the United States Army. During his time in the Army, Topper served in Germany for 3 years where he met the love of his life, Julie. After Topper’s time in the Army, he started working for CSX Transportation. Topper worked there for 42 years as a Signal Inspector, trouble shooter. During his time at CSX Transportation, he met some of the best co-workers and made some life-long friends. Topper loved to play golf and was an 11-year volunteer for the Player’s Championship. He had a heart of gold and will be dearly missed. Topper was preceded in death by his father Reuben Crews; mother Clarine (Bet) Drury; son Jacob Matthew Crews; brother Reuben Henry Crews; and nephew Buddy Crews.

Topper leaves behind his loving wife Julie Crews; children Sara Crews (Steven) Jordan, John R. Crews (Vernon Hawthorne) and Jessie E. Crews; granddaughters Grace Jordan, Scarlett Jordan and Kailey Jordan; sisters Patty Crews Teasley, Nola Ann Crews Hance and Hannah Crews Fisher; and many nephews and nieces.

A memorial service for Topper will be held at a later date. Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family’s guest book.



JAMES EUGENE FLYNN, JR.

James “Jim” Eugene Flynn, Jr., 63, of Hilliard, passed away November 28, 2023 at Community Hospice Douglas Center, with his loving family by his side. He was born November 13, 1960 in Jacksonville, to the late James Eugene Flynn, Sr. and Leila Oney Flynn. Jim and the love of his life, Kim, wed on February 24, 1990 and were happily married for 31 years. Together they shared two wonderful children James, Jr. and Veronica.


Jim worked for Woodsman Kitchen and Floors for over 30 years and enjoyed his profession, however his passion was racing. He enjoyed driving in the demolition derby. Jim was the Race Director for Callahan Speedway and Southern Thunder Dirt Tour for several years. He coached baseball and softball for 25 years and enjoyed coaching his own children. Jim was the assistant coach for the Lady Blackhawks softball team. He also enjoyed traveling for professional bowling. More than anything, Jim loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. So much that about 5 months ago, Jim’s family convinced him to move to Hilliard with them so they could all spend more time together. Jim was extremely active in his grandchildren’s lives. Whether it be making sure they made it to t-ball practice, taking an unforgettable trip to Disney or just spending time with them at home, he made sure he was there. Jim had a great sense of humor and was known as a prankster. He was a loving and devoted father, brother, grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend that will be missed dearly. Jim was preceded in death by parents; wife Kimberly Flynn; sisters Carol, Donna, Debbie, Sandy, Susan and Sharon.

Jim leaves behind his loving children James (Faith) Flynn, III and Veronica Flynn, all of Hilliard; brothers TT, Billy and Barry; sisters JoJo and Jessica; grandchildren Avery Flynn, Elaina Flynn and Talen Flynn; cousin Yvonne “Cuz”; special nephew JD who was more like a son that Jim helped raise and several other nephews and nieces.

A memorial service for Jim will be held Friday, December 8 at 6 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Brian Mansfield officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

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

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



JEFFERY THOMAS HOWARD

Jeffery “Jeff” Thomas Howard, 54, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully December 3, 2023 at his home with his loving family by his side. He was born June 22, 1969 to the late Ned Porter Howard and Barbara Joyce Howard in Jacksonville. Jeff has been a resident of Hilliard for the past 30 years and was proud to call it home. Jeff and his soul mate, Brandy, wed in February of 1993, and were happily married for 19 years. They shared two children together, Faith and Corey. When Brandy passed away in 2012, it left Jeff broken. Many tried to get Jeff to move on, but he always said that Brandy was the only one for him and no would ever compare to her.

Jeff worked for Riverstone Construction for about 15 years. He was dedicated to his job and took pride in his work. Jeff’s favorite pastimes were collecting guns and knives, shooting, and racing go carts and wing outlaws. He enjoyed vacationing to the mountains in the Carolinas and going out to eat. When Jeff received good service at a restaurant, he would take care of his waitresses by always leaving a hefty tip. There were even times when Jeff would let the waitress determine the amount of the tip! More than anything, Jeff loved his family and spending time with them. He was a loving father, grandfather, uncle, and friend that will be missed dearly. Jeff was preceded in death by his parents; wife Brandy Emerson Howard; and brothers JP Howard and Mickey Howard.

Jeff leaves behind his loving children Faith (James, III) Flynn and Corey (Arielle) Howard; grandchildren Sanaya, Avery, Zion, Elaina and Talen; and nieces Jessica



*We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
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2. You will be assigned a resident and their ‘wishes’.
3. Have your gift wrapped and back to the facility by December 23rd.
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5. Music – If you have a musical talent you would like to share we invite you to come and perform!


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

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Call today! 904-874-5261

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AL #5766



OBITUARIES

(Wesley) Johnson and Lynsy Howard (Phil Zaborowski).

Pallbearers were Corey Howard, James Flynn, III, David Hicken, Lloyd Roberts, Doug McGough, Wesley Johnson, Kenneth Caves and Kelly Musgrove. Honorary pallbearers were Dwaine Miller and Robert Wilcox.

A celebration of Jeff's life will be held Thursday, December 7 at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Brian Mansfield officiating. A private family interment will follow at Jones Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

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

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

VIOLA GAY "PINKY" KIRKLAND



Viola Gay "Pinky" Kirkland, 92, of Callahan, passed away November 29, 2023 following a lengthy illness. She was born November 27, 1931 in Mathias, West Virginia. She resided in Jacksonville for many years before moving to Callahan. She retired from BellSouth (Southern Bell/AT&T) following a long career as a manager in the business office. She had been a member of or volunteered for many organizations throughout her lifetime. In later years she was a member of the "seniors" at the COA in Hilliard (Council on Aging) where she enjoyed many afternoons with new friends whom she recalled fondly.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 50+ years Maurice "Kirk" Kirkland; her parents Walter and Virgie O'Leary Wilkens; sister Violet Wilkens; step-daughter Daurice "Dee" Pope and son-in-law Windell Pope; and grandson Ronnie Hayden.

Survivors include her grandchildren Robby (Rachelle) Polk, Dawn (Joe) Cothron of Callahan and Vince (Donna) D'Antoni; great-grandchildren Jessica "Nikki" (Roland) Koci, Lauren D'Antoni, Casey and Kelly Polk, James (Haley) Campbell and Erin D'Antoni; great-great grandchildren Alec Koci and Madison (Campbell) Whaley; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Pinky maintained many enduring friendships, namely but not limited to who the family affectionately referred to as "Pinky's Posse" Wilma Whittemore, Alice Harrell and Gerry Snipes, she loved them all and will be missed by many friends and neighbors.

The family wishes to thank her caregivers of Community Hospice of Nassau's staff specifically Belinda, Jody and Kelly, COA's staff namely Lucille

and most dearly "Ms. Lillie" Milton, all provided an incredible level of care and companionship.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, December 5 at Callahan Methodist Church with beloved Pastor Bodie Ridley officiating. A luncheon followed the service provided by church members organized by her dear friend Gerry Snipes.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the COA of Hilliard, 37002 Ingham Rd., Hilliard, FL 32046.

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

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

MICHAEL E. PERRET, SR.



Michael E. Perret, Sr., 70, passed away peacefully the morning of October 29, 2023, surrounded by his loving family in Mayo Hospital. Despite facing health challenges for decades, his resilience was remarkable. In July 2023, when confronted with the stark reality of his condition, he responded with a laugh, embodying the strength that defined him.

Michael was born December 26, 1952 in Jacksonville, to the late Donald and Mary Perret and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. He became President and owner of Perret Dairy, Inc. A devoted provider, Michael tirelessly worked to give his family the best. His love for old westerns and action-packed tales reflected his ability to blur the lines between reality and fiction, adding a touch of excitement to everyday life.

Michael, a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus, was a very active and pivotal member of Our Lady Consolation Catholic Church, where he served on many committees including: President of the Parish Council, fried countless chicken dinners at the annual bazaar and dedicated weekends to tending to the yard. He loved the parish and was appointed the project building team member for the new church erected in 1998.

Michael was a man who embraced life's adventures with a passion for the outdoors and love for the water. He found joy in dove hunting, fishing, swimming and water skiing. A maestro in the kitchen and on the piano, he delighted in entertaining, creating an atmosphere where friends gathered around the kitchen table, which became a hub for meaningful conversations and shared moments.

Michael E. Perret, Sr. is survived by his former wife and mother of his children, Sandy Perret, with whom he shared 38 years of his life. Though their paths diverged, the memories of those years endure in the hearts of those who knew them. He is survived by his daughter Anne Marie (Kyle) Hamlin; and his son Michael E. Perret, Jr. Michael's legacy extends through his cherished granddaughters Mary Michaela Perret, Olivia Dettore Hamlin and Ahna Sophia Perret and step-granddaughter, Kyla Serrell Hamlin; his brother Charles A. Perret; and sisters Mary Francis O'Leary and Nora Anne Anderson.

A Catholic Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, December 9 at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church in Callahan with Father Bui officiating. Following the service, the family invites friends and loved ones to a celebration luncheon in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made to Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church Building Fund to honor Michael E. Perret, Sr.'s commitment to the church and the ongoing endeavors of the community.

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

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

PATRICIA COOK QUAILE



Patricia Charlene Cook Quaile, 77, of Callahan, passed away November 27, 2023, at her home surrounded by her loved ones. She battled cancer like a warrior for many years only to lose the final battle. Patsy was born on

June 19, 1946, to Agnes and Amous Cook who already had two daughters, Lucy Maxine (Jasper) Griffin and Sandra (Jerry) Goldsberry. Patsy was born a twin to her brother Michael (Lisa) Cook, to whom she adored, and had several nieces and nephews. The Cook family grew up in the small town of Callahan.

Patsy married the love of her life, William John Quaile, Jr. July 5, 1995 and that's when their 28-year love story began. Bill brought into the marriage two daughters Nancy (Mike) Bailey and her children Kevin and Rachel and grandson Hayden, Patricia A. Quaile (fiancé, Jeff Jones) and her son Joseph Kearns. Patsy brought into the marriage a son Drew (Felicia) Sauls and their children JD, Ethan and Emmee.

Patsy truly believed in serving her community and felt that connecting with others was time well spent. She believed our world could be a better place if everyone would simply dedicate a little of their time towards helping others in need. Patsy spent most of her time volunteering for many different organizations which included the Lions Club, OES as Past Worthy Matron, West Nassau Chamber of Commerce, Planning and Zoning Board where she started The Relay for Life and worked it for 3 years, Take Stock in Children where she mentored Shannon Morgan for 5 years. Patsy and Johnny Page started the Military Appreciation in Callahan. She started the Westside Crisis Hotline as well as many others. Her favorite job was working as a paralegal.

Patsy loved her flower garden, crafting, her many pets and spending time with her family. She will be missed by those she loved and the people whose lives she made a difference in.

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

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Warriors Giving Back

The West Nassau Lady Warriors Soccer Team has the privilege of adopting a local charity in the Callahan area as part of a program they call “Warriors Giving Back.” We believe that teaching our players about community service and the responsibilities that we all have to help others and this program gives us an outlet to do that.

This year we selected Cusatti’s Critters which is a unique rescue focused on assisting senior dogs to live their final years in comfort and dignity. These are animals that each have their own story ranging from being abandoned by owners, significant medical challenges, or even in one case used as a training aid for fighting dogs. This rescue was officially started by retired law enforcement officers Carlos and Rita Cusatti in 2017 as a way to try and raise funds as a 501(c)3 charitable organization to assist them in their rescue efforts that had been going on for years.

The Lady Warriors soccer players were all required to complete 2 hours of volunteer work at the Cusatti’s which included walking, feeding, and playing with these wonderful animals. Each player got to know the more than 15 dogs and hear their stories. The players also spent time with the Cusatti’s, including daughter Monique, hearing about the Cusatti’s Critters

stories and how they impact the lives of these animals and how that benefits the Callahan Community at large. The Cusatti’s were able to explain the benefits and challenges of running a charitable organization out of their home during their retirement after nearly 50 years of combined service in law enforcement.

Additionally, Cusatti’s Critters will be attending various home matches this season with some of their friendly rescues so attendees can meet some of their animals, hear their stories first hand, and make a donation. Charitable donations can also be made through their PayPal link found on the Cusatti’s Critters Facebook page.

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