



WESTSIDE JOURNAL

LIGHTING OF THE
CALLAHAN DEPOT
CHRISTMAS TREE
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 10TH
6 - 7 p.m.
Callahan Depot



VOLUME XIX ISSUE 20

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

“...AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM AND SAID, “JOSEPH SON OF DAVID, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY HOME AS YOUR WIFE, BECAUSE WHAT IS CONCEIVED IN HER IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU ARE TO GIVE HIM THE NAME JESUS, BECAUSE HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.” - MATTHEW 1:20-21

Fun at the Callahan Christmas Parade!



Last Saturday, the 49th Annual Callahan Christmas parade was held! If by chance you missed it, you missed a treat! The parade is always so much fun. Lots of people get out and get their perfect spot bright & early. The streets were lined the entire parade route and the smiles were many. God blessed us with a beautiful day for the annual event.

line for a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

The judges of the parade said this year it was very difficult to decide because of all of the wonderful entrants. But after a lengthy deliberation, here are the winners: Best Theme: 1st Place: CSA 10U Gold Cheer; 2nd Place: Town of Callahan; 3rd Place Dot's Hair Salon; and 4th Place Live Oak Baptist Church. Best Creative: 1st Place: Lady Ramblers Soccer Club; 2nd Place Callahan Little League; 3rd Place First Baptist Church Boulougne; and 4th Place Brandies Ace Hardware. Best In-Step: West Nassau High School Warrior Band. Best Equine: 4-H Young Riders. Best Non-Float: Seldomridge's Tow Mater.



The West Nassau Historical Society did an amazing job organizing, judging and preparing for the event. Hats off to the society for a job well done. The Grand Marshal was Thomas Blue, Sr., longtime Callahan resident. There were 62 parade entrants and 70 vendors for the Craft Fair and of course a super long



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Letters to the Editor

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

America Under Siege

Dear Editor,

One of the least talked about threats to the American way of life is the deterioration of the middle class. Mobility up the rungs of the economic ladder, the entre to the middle class, has been foundational to attracting talent resources to America, its growth, stability and our world-renowned uniqueness.

Biden's economic and energy policies threaten to destroy that foundation. Already, the effects of inflation, all goods and services cost more, out of control mortgage interests rates, car loans and credit cards across the board, and prices at the gas station have the middle class struggling to make ends meet. Citizens who were capable to pay their way now visit food distribution centers at least once a week. The poor careen deeper in debt with little hope of increasing their income. While the wealthy continue to live undisturbed and appear to be the only Americans Biden cares about.

The middle class is under siege and Biden hasn't lifted a finger to improve the debacle. As a result, we are headed toward a two-tier society characteristic of third world countries,

where there are only two classes, the rich and the poor.

Congratulations to the Democrats! You schemed to maneuver a man into the Oval Office who, as it turns out, represents who you really are, The Destroyers of our way of life.

B.R. McConnell

Missing Roger!

Dear Roger,

I'm so sorry you are not writing your column anymore! I hope it's not for good... I'm a 76-year-old lady that looked forward to what you had to say. I never was interested in politics until our great President Trump stepped into office and how the democrats illegally stole the election... they are still after President Trump to make sure he doesn't run again!

You let us know what's going on in our country. I was interested in your opinion of the documentary "Died Suddenly"!

I hope you come back to let us know what kind of corruption is going on, for those that still have their heads in the sand!

Linda Noll



Santa Claus at Family Dollar

This Saturday, make sure to take a trip to the Hilliard Family Dollar to get a picture with Santa! Santa will be at the store Saturday, December 10 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.!

In the Kitchen... Fried Mashed Potato Cakes

- 1 cup leftover mashed potatoes, cooled
- 1 large egg
- 2 1/2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, or as needed

Mix together mashed potatoes, egg, flour, and salt in a bowl until well combined. Heat a thin layer of vegetable oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Working in batches, drop 1/6 of the potato mixture into the hot frying pan and flatten into a patty. Repeat to add more patties to the pan. Cook until browned, about 3 minutes per side.

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WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

Dawn West Publisher
 Roger West Owner/Reporter
 Jessie Pickett Graphic Designer

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

That may have been the shortest sabbatical of all time. First, let me say how humbled I am by all the emails, letters and phone calls concerning the "Just My Opinion" column. I never would have thought that so many people read my column and enjoyed it. I thank every one of you! I still haven't made my mind up as to whether I will submit a column every week or if I will just do every other week as I did when I first began writing. We will all have to wait and see. Again, thank you all.

Now for some of the ole political nitty-gritty, last week Elon Musk made the liberals' heads spin. Musk as the new owner of Twitter released solid proof that Twitter worked hand in hand with the Democrat Party to suppress vital newsworthy stories concerning Hunter Biden's laptop from hell. Prior to the 2020 election, the FBI had the laptop with information connecting Joe Biden to multiple business dealings with foreign countries. The "Big Guy" as Joe Biden was referenced in emails, received money that his son Hunter made from countries such as China, Russia and Ukraine. The millions of dollars received by the Biden Family Crime Syndicate are such that Joe Biden is a very much compromised acting President. As you may very well remember, Joe Biden stated on camera that he had never discussed with Hunter any of his business dealings. Lie! He not only discussed the family

corrupted dealings, he profited from them. Impeachable, yes, criminal, yes! Musk announced that he will release more information very soon. The liberal pundits whom used to worship Twitter, as Forrest Gump would say, and just like that the liberals hate Twitter and Elon.

The left has a silver lining in all of this, go figure. President Trump made a comment on Truth Social that said, "So, with the revelation of MASSIVE & WIDESPREAD FRAUD & DECEPTION in working closely with Big Tech Companies, the DNC, & the Democrat Party, do you throw the Presidential Election Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHTFUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION? A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations and articles, even those found in the Constitution. Our great "Founders" did not want, and would not condone, False & Fraudulent Elections!"

Conservatives and all the libs have turned this statement to say Trump wants to do away with the Constitution. That is totally preposterous! If anyone is making that their take on his statement it would appear to me that most of them all are gulping the Kool-aid! If any of you cannot plainly see that the 2020

election was stolen then you need to take the blinders off. In reference to President Trump's statement, most are taking his words out of context. How many of you have made or heard the comment "if they aren't going to enforce it, they may as well get rid of it?" That was the context of his statement, a play on words and an old cliché. It really does not surprise me that people are turning their heads away from the best President this country has ever had, it's the norm now, no one is satisfied with anything for any amount of time and are always searching for something bigger and better. I have always been told to watch out for what you ask for because you may very well get it and

guess what? It is usually not what you think it was going to be. President Trump also released the following statement, "The Fake News is actually trying to convince the American People that I said I wanted to "terminate" the Constitution. This is simply more DISINFORMATION & LIES, just like RUSSIA, RUSSIA, RUSSIA, and all of their other HOAXES & SCAMS. What I said was that when there is "MASSIVE & WIDESPREAD FRAUD & DECEPTION," as has been irrefutably proven in the 2020 Presidential Election, steps must be immediately taken to RIGHT THE WRONG. Only FOOLS would disagree with that and accept STOLEN ELECTIONS. MAGA!" The last thing this country needs is a divided conservative movement.

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

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US 1, Callahan, will host a FREE "Breakfast with Santa" Sat., December 10 from 9-11 a.m. Breakfast, crafts to make and take a picture with Santa!

Callahan Chapter 154 Order of the Eastern Star will meet Monday, December 12 at the Callahan Masonic Lodge (behind Callahan Town Hall) at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments follow the meeting.

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Jesus is The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



Christmas is upon us, and we are preparing by decorating our houses with lights inside and out. Some of us are writing our shopping list and trying to find the best deals to find the perfect gift for our loved ones. Our shopping experience could lead us to our favorite online store, or we can build the courage to go to the brick-and-mortar store. As we try to create a loving memory this Christmas season like no other, let's honor Jesus this Christmas, for he is the gift that keeps on giving.

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It's a time of sharing and reflecting on the blessings God has given us this past year. It was prophesied in the book of Isaiah that Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior, would be born. Isaiah 6:9 states, "For unto us a Child is born unto us a son is given and the government would be upon his shoulders and he will be called wonderful counselor mighty God everlasting father prince of peace." For unto us a child was born, Christ the living Saviors birth is what we now celebrate as Christmas.

Jesus left the kingdom of Heaven to come to earth in human form as a gift from God. One gift in John 1:4-5, Jesus came to be the light of the world and the life of men. Then Jesus came to give us his gift of joy, that in him our joy may be complete (John 15:11). He did not stop there. He came to provide us with peace; John 14:27 informs us of this. The best gift of all is the gift of salvation. He was born, lived and died to give us eternal life. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jesus has provided us with all things that we need to survive. It doesn't matter where we are in life; we have a lot or very little, facing cancer or in the perfect health, He is there. When we are weak and don't know where to turn, we can turn to Jesus. God showed just how much he loved us by sending his only Son, Jesus, to take away the sins of the world. God the Father allowed the Savior to be hung on the cross, shedding his blood and dying as a ransom for our sins. We must never forget that Jesus Christ is the gift that keeps giving.

This Christmas season should be about what Jesus Christ has given to each one of us. As we share the blessings that the Savior has provided for us this Christmas, remember the Prince of Peace, the Mighty God, is the gift that keeps on giving. We should honor him this season because the Savior has done many wonderful things for the world. We are the light of the world; our life is a gift from God. Enjoy your life this Christmas season, and find joy and peace in the small victories God has given us. Merry Christmas, and may God continue to be your gift this holiday season.

Grace And Peace from our Lord and Savior.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

Annual Jingle Jamboree with ABWA

Calling all businesswomen of Nassau County. You are invited to join the Eight Flags Chapter of the American Businesswomen (ABWA) for its Second Annual Jingle Jamboree on Tuesday, December 13 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. at Fernandina Beach Golf Club, 2800 Bill Melton Road, Fernandina Beach. Building upon last year's phenomenally successful gathering, the festive event includes, musical entertainment, door prizes, and a special interactive program by Donna Paz Kaufman, about the power of story in your life and in your business.



holds a business degree and is a certified trainer in customer service and leadership. "You will not want to miss this! Come to enjoy the program, networking, holiday meal, homemade desserts and loads of fun! Be sure to wear your holiday attire," says Jenny Higginbotham, ABWA program co-chair.

Jenny Higginbotham, ABWA program co-chair.

You MUST Register and PAY online no later than Sunday, December 11 by 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 for members; \$25 for guests; please address food allergies and sensitivities at registration. Please register today at: www.abwaeightflags.org.

After managing one of the country's leading independent bookstore cafes and working in publishing, Donna founded The Bookstore Training Group of Paz & Associates in 1992 with the mission of helping booksellers build skills and insights. Today, Donna and her husband Mark also own Story & Song Bookstore Bistro, a 4,500-bookstore cafe on Amelia Island, and have founded the private operating foundation Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture. Donna

The Eight Flags Chapter of ABWA meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. to provide professional development with interactive speakers who inspire and enrich us professionally and personally. Each meeting also offers ample time to network with women from a variety of businesses, skill sets, and experiences.

Visit: www.abwaeightflags.org to learn more and to register.

Santa at the Bryceville Library

Bryceville Community Center/Library
Saturday, December 10 @ 2 p.m.

Come and enjoy a fun "Holiday Celebration with Santa, Frosty the Snowman and Pete the Cat!" There will be lots of holiday music, stories, crafts, games, cookies & more! Free photos with all the characters!



CHURCH NEWS

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY 1, will hold a meat give away Saturday, December 10 at 10 a.m. at the church.

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US 1, Callahan, will host a FREE "Breakfast with Santa" Sat., December 10 from 9-11 a.m. Breakfast, crafts to make and take a picture with Santa!

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Hilliard Council Honors Kay Moore

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of December. The first order of business was a Proclamation honoring Keiko 'Kay' Moore for her 49 years of service working for Fuqua's Pharmacy and Hilliard Pharmacy. Ms. Kay was joined by members of family for this special honor. December 1, 2022 was proclaimed Kieko 'Kay' Harada Moore Day in Hilliard. The proclamation also included: Kay's husband, Lester, served in the US Air Force during the occupation of Japan; in 1951 Lester and Kay were married and moved to Florida in 1952; in 1954 Kay became an American citizen; after retirement from the Air Force, the family moved to Hilliard in 1972; in 1973 Kay began working at Fuqua's Pharmacy where she worked with lifetime friends; in 1984, Mr. Fuqua passed and the store was bought and the name changed to Hilliard Pharmacy where she continued to work until the present, sharing her cheerful demeanor and sweet smile with everyone in town and becoming a favorite of Hilliard residents; Kay has been a welcome, encouraging and bright mainstay of the Fuqua and Hilliard Pharmacy for a half century and has decided to retire at the age of 92; she is beloved by customers, coworkers and residents alike and will be missed greatly in her well-deserved retirement.

The first agenda item was to set a joint workshop of the council with the Planning & Zoning Board to discuss proposed amendments to the Zoning



and Land Development regulations. The workshop was set for Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6 p.m.

The council also set a workshop for Tuesday, December 15 at 6 p.m. to discuss audit findings in the Florida Retirement System.

The council approved a Capital Budget vehicle purchase for the Parks & Recreation Department in the amount of \$36,270. "This is a Fleet 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500, 2WD regular cab, 140 work truck," said Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg. "This is on a state contract and we will have the truck by March."

The next item concerned approving Brailen Fossick's transition from temporary staff to regular part-time staff. "We currently have 20 regular students in after school care and we need the staff," said Whittenburg.

The council approved the Hilliard Volunteer Fire Department run reimbursement.

The next regular meeting of the council will be December 15 at 7 p.m.

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Gifted Pioneer Village Fieldtrip

Tracy Cruce

The Elementary Gifted Classes of Nassau County recently traveled to Tifton, Georgia to visit the Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village. Upon arrival, the students were given pioneer clothes to wear for the day. They were divided into groups and rotated through different stations to learn first-hand about pioneer life. Some of the stations they visited were an old schoolhouse complete with teacher and lesson, print shop, blacksmith, grist mill, feed and seed, farmhouse with farm, mercantile and commissary.



“old-fashioned” way as well as stack firewood, sweep the wooden floors and gather pinecones for the fire. It was a day spent reliving the past where students were emersed in learning.



The students also toured log cabins and learned how primitive life was back then. For lunch the students were served chicken purlieu (chicken and rice with vegetables) cooked over open fire, cornbread, fresh strawberry preserves, bread and butter pickles and pound cake for dessert. They were also given chores to clean-up and wash the dishes the



WNHS Volleyball Standouts

The West Nassau High School Volleyball recently wrapped up their season with their Awards Banquet. Three of the seniors were standouts and brought home some impressive honors! Amelia Batrous, Gracie Hartley and Ella Bailey were leaders on the court, and it paid off! Gracie Hartley and Amelia Batrous both earned First Team All-State Honors by the Florida Athletic Coaches Association; and all three girls were awarded All-Academic Team Honors!

Gracie Hartley ended up #1 in Class 4A in the state of Florida for total blocks and #7 overall in the State of Florida. Amelia Batrous ended up #16 in Class 4A in the state of Florida for Total Digs. Ella Bailey ended up #17 in Class 4A in state of FL for Total Aces. These girls



Shown (l to r) are: Amelia Batrous, Gracie Hartley and Ella Bailey

have played volleyball together since middle school and have helped create a winning culture here at West Nassau! Congratulations!



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Lee Greene

Fentanyl is Infiltrating Our Country

Sheriff Bill Leeper

Last month, I was invited to fly to Tucson, Arizona for a visit along the Mexico border. As Vice President of the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA), I decided to see first-hand how illegal drugs were gaining access into our country and more importantly into our local communities and I can tell you the entire trip was eye-opening. I met with officials from the DEA who told me our greatest threat today is overdoses likely due to fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid similar to morphine but 50 to 100 times more potent and up to 50 times stronger than heroin. As little as 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be enough to kill. That's the equivalent to 10 grains of table salt.

Unfortunately, here in Nassau County we are no stranger to fentanyl. So far this year, NCSO has responded to at least 116 possible drug overdose incidents; 11 of those cases were fatal with 6 more possible drug-related deaths pending the Medical Examiner results. Nearly 70 percent of those people who died had fentanyl in their system. This year NCSO has seized over 4 ½ pounds of fentanyl, which is enough to potentially kill over one million people.

In the U.S. overdose deaths nearly doubled among adolescents in 2020 and rose another 20% in 2021. One of the major reasons for this is social media. Fentanyl is now being massed produced into fake prescription medication and sold via social media platforms like Snapchat, Tik-Tok and Instagram where teens can become an easy target. That's why it is so important to talk to your teenage children about the dangers of counterfeit pills. You never know what you are getting on the street. Remember, just one pill can kill! In fact, last year the DEA seized enough



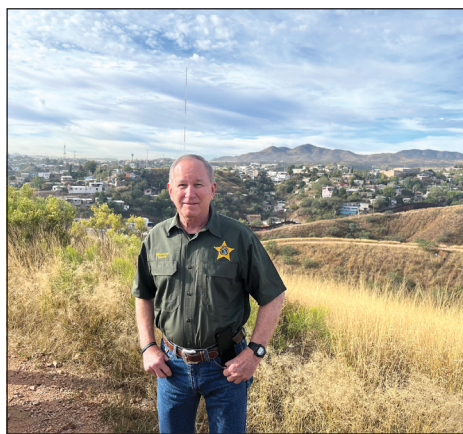
Sheriff Bill Leeper at the U.S./Mexico Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona where 2,000 commercial trucks and 10,000 passenger vehicles travel through each day coming from Mexico.

fentanyl to kill every American. Florida ranks second in the nation in overdose deaths. Through this trip I learned that many of these illegal drugs are funneled from Mexico through Arizona and Texas and eventually to the Atlanta area before making their way into Florida and into our community.

The Mexican Cartels are currently flooding the market with millions of pills and their goal is to get as many people as they can hooked on these dangerous and deadly drugs. Drug trafficking organizations in Mexico are making fentanyl from chemicals coming from China. These chemicals are common ingredients in cleaning supplies so they are legal and hard to track. The cartels use pill presses to make fake pills and smuggle them into the U.S. to sell on the street. These pills can cost anywhere from .30 to .45 cents each wholesale; and on the street sell for \$20-\$30 each. A kilo of fentanyl cost \$75,000 wholesale; with a street value of \$3-\$5 million dollars.

During the trip I met with U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel, Border Patrol Agents, as well as other sheriffs in Arizona. I learned that in just the month of October they caught 230,000 people trying to illegally cross the Southwest Border of US and Mexico. Two to three years ago they were only averaging around 30,000 people per month. There is also an overwhelming backlog of court cases dealing with immigration that our country just can't handle, with court cases being scheduled 8 years

out. Sadly, many women and children end up trafficked into the sex trade to help pay off their debt to the cartels in return for helping them gain access into the United



Sheriff Bill Leeper in Nogales, Arizona with Mexico in the background.

States. These crime organizations hold family members hostage until those debts are repaid. Talking to the Sheriffs out of Santa Cruz County and Cochise County (two Arizona counties which border

Mexico) I got an opportunity to hear and see just what they deal with every day, with the illegal border crossings, the drugs that they seize and the human trafficking issues. Right before my eyes, I watched Cochise County's security cameras as they caught two separate groups of 25 and 15 attempting to cross the border illegally. I learned that many of the Border Patrol Agents along the border have been pulled away and are in the holding facilities processing those who cross illegally, leaving a reduced number of Border Patrol Agents in the field, causing the vast majority of the enforcement along the border up to the local sheriff, which taxes their personnel who are also dealing with the normal crime issues they have to investigate.

Many of the Border Patrol Agents told me the current situation has gotten out of control. The Mariposa border crossing port of entry in Nogales, Arizona, which is staffed by the US Customs and Border Protection, seized 12 million fentanyl pills last year. The border wall that was being built, was stopped, which means that for miles there is no fence, which allows people to easily illegally cross the border. These illegal drugs that are being smuggled across the border are killing hundreds of thousands of people in our country and destroying families in the process. Whether you are on the left, on the right or somewhere in the middle, the situation along the United States and Mexico border has to be fixed somehow. Anyone in Washington, D.C. who says that our southern border is secure is simply not telling the truth. All you have to do is talk to those on the frontlines and they will tell you it's not. Something else needs to be done because the situation is not only grim...it's getting worse.

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BIG YARD SALE! Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 44495 Artesian Blvd. Callahan. Home and office furniture, 2 sets of Tundra rims, children's and adult items and more!

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 9 a.m. until? 35601 Glory Rd., off Old Dixie, 3rd trailer on right! Tools, household items, clothes, toys & other miscellaneous items!

3 FAMILY YARD SALE, Friday & Saturday, Dec. 9 & 10, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 34440 Old Baldwin Road, Callahan (off Sandy Ford). Christmas trees, Christmas snowmen, Rae Dunn, Vera Bradley, tools, picture frames, school supplies. Something for everyone!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., north of Hilliard to Andrews Road, right 1 mile down CR 121. Crafts, cameras, bowling ball with case, computer desk, clothes and tools.

STOREWIDE SALE FRIDAY! Entire store 50% OFF! Located behind CVS, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. God's Bridge Ministries.

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Callahan Town News

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first and last meeting of December and 2022. Callahan resident Curtis Lowe approached the podium to address the council. "I live on Brown Street, by the railroad tracks. I'm concerned about extra water that is flowing onto my property. I wanted to make the town aware of the situation so maybe it can be corrected or hopefully improved," said Lowe. "The road used to be dirt and it was just paved over. There weren't any preparations to the road it was just paved. The Storehouse building has a large driveway and when it rains the water flows completely over the road onto my property."

"Dwayne, Do you know where this problem is that he is talking about? Can you ride over and look at the situation?" asked Council President Ken Bass.

"Yes sir. I will get with Mr. Lowe tomorrow and see what we can do," answered Dwayne Miller, Public Works Director.

The first order of business was the presentation of a plaque of appreciation by Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge to former mayor Matthew Davis. The plaque read: Presented to Matthew J. Davis, Mayor, August 2020 – December 2022 for Service to the Town & Community.

The first agenda item was the first Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-006.



The ordinance concerned the re-zoning of 1.5 acres at 45005 Nassau Street from Mixed Use to Residential. The council approved the ordinance on first reading. Second and final reading will be at the Tuesday, January 3 meeting.

Resolution 2022-19 was approved which concerned donating \$5,000 for the Hilliard A-Team for their work during the NE FL Fair to assist the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department. The CVFD wanted to donate money to the team from their account as they worked hard for the 11 days of the fair.

Callahan Town Clerk Shawna Gugliuzza advised the council that the Movie in the Park event was a success with lots of children, great vendors and free hot chocolate and hot dogs. She also advised that there needs to be a little more planning for next year.

The next regular meeting of the council will be Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7 p.m.

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 30

Ethan Cane Whitty, 22, 25303 Wrights Dairy Road, Callahan: DUI Manslaughter

Friday, December 2

Robert Dale Mencner, 50, 281072 Franklin Road, Hilliard: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon

Saturday, December 3

Dalton Lee Brown, 19, 45168 James Street, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine

Izaiah Michael Manning, 22, 54419 Lawhon Road, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Alexis Michelle Locklear, 24, Callahan: Child Neglect without Great Bodily Harm or Permanent Disability



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Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

The 1950 Census was released earlier this year. This is the first census that includes the early 'Baby Boomers.' If you don't subscribe to Ancestry, you can probably access it at your local public library.

The West Nassau Genealogical Society meets the second Monday of each month (December 12) at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club.



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<p>2-PACK FRESH PORK BUTTS</p> <p>\$1.79 lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 12-13-22 WJ White Supplies Last With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>Lite Pork SPARE RIBS</p> <p>2-3 Pack \$1.99 lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 12-13-22 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>
<p>USDA Whole T-BONES</p> <p>\$5.95 lb.</p> <p>Cut the way you like!</p> <p><small>Expires 12-13-22 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>GOAT CUBES</p> <p>10 lb. \$60.00 Box</p> <p><small>Expires 12-13-22 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>

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MILDRED JONES MARSH

Mildred Marie Jones Marsh, 72, of Hilliard, passed away December 3, 2022. She was born June 10, 1950 in Norfolk, Virginia to the late Reddin Marvin and Laura Mae Jones. Mildred loved playing bingo, crocheting and spending time with her family. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by her husband Richard A. Marsh; and a step-son Glenvi Marsh.

She is survived by her two children Roger (Susan) Gibson, Jr. and Dana (Tony) Testone; four step-children Russell (Amy) Marsh, Sam (Tina) Marsh, Darren (Christine) Marsh and Elvie (Nicci) Meredith; several cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held Thursday, December 8 from 5 -7:30 p.m. at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

EARLIE TERRELL MCQUAIG

Mr. Earlie Terrell McQuaig, 83, of Broxton, Georgia, passed away November 30, 2022 at Coffee Regional Medical Center following a short illness.

He was born August 27, 1939 to the late William and the Lila Mae Courson McQuaig.

Earlie, a native of Waycross, Georgia, stepped into the aisle and walked down to the altar and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at the age of 18. He dedicated his life to the Lord and his church. He grew up in Dinsmore area in Jacksonville. He served in the Florida Air National Guard for 8 years. He worked with Sunbeam Baking Company for 14 years; and also worked in the Poultry

Industry for many years. Later, he worked as the plant manager of the Ethanol Plant in Douglas. He then moved to South Carolina to manage the Ethanol Plant in Kingstree, South Carolina for 15 years. After retiring, he moved back to Broxton and began his business of Hidden Acres Growers Greenhouses, where he specialized in Boston Ferns and Geraniums for 21 years. After closing his greenhouses, he spent the past several years growing and tending his garden, raising cows and chickens, where he loved sharing his vegetables and eggs with his neighbors and friends. He attended Broxton First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Tommie S. McQuaig; five children Perette (Anthony) Morris of Willacochee, GA, Terry (Jerome) Steptoe of Douglas, GA, Earlie T. McQuaig, Jr. and JeanAnn (Ray) Miller, all of Tifton, GA and Seth (Leigh Ann) Thomas of Irwinville, GA; ten grandchildren Ashleigh Morris (Daniel) Hunter, Amber Lyrae Morris, Aeron Ray (Kiley) Morris, Shad Steptoe, Harrison Steptoe, Chisum Steptoe, Paul McQuaig, Fisher McQuaig, Danielle Miller, Meagan Miller and Reilly Thomas; seven great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Barbara Smith (Raymond) Lane; and lifelong friend Charles (Ann) Lee of Callahan; and several extended family members and friends.

The family received friends prior to the graveside service held Friday, December 2 at Rocky Pond Cemetery with Rev. George Carroll Paulk officiating.

Ricketson Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at www.ricketsonfuneralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

JONATHAN DAVID MERRITT



Jonathan David Merritt, 44, of Hilliard, passed away on November 13, 2022. He was born September 12, 1978 in Jacksonville to James and Judith Merritt. He liked to work on things and was the best mechanic anyone knew. He was a funny loving person and will be missed by family and friends. He is preceded in death by his mother Judith Merritt; sisters Dana Merritt, Jana Stoner and Lana Tanner.

He is survived by his loving father James Merritt, Sr.; four siblings James (Sherry) Merritt, Jr., Gina (Neil) Bolen, Donna Dale and Marlena Michael; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Saturday, November 26 at Callahan Funeral Home.

JODI WOOD PIPER



Jodi Erin Wood Piper, 44, of Patterson, New Jersey, formerly of Callahan, passed away November 9, 2022. Jodi was born September 13, 1978 in Jacksonville. She grew up in Callahan, where she attended church. She attended local schools and was a cheerleader. She won the Miss Nassau County beauty contest and fellow contestants also elected her as Miss Congeniality. Jodi was predeceased by her grandparents James and Jeanette Glass; grandfather Ed Wood, Sr.; and her brother John Wood.

She is survived by her son Johnathan Thomas Piper of Jacksonville; longtime companion Javier Ardin of Patterson; parents Ed Wood, Jr. and Judy (Thom) Rogers; sister Jami (Chris) Champney; a step-sister Lisa (Alex) Horton; grandmother Marie Wood; and many other extended family members.

Memorialization by cremation. Her final resting place will be at home in Callahan.

HELEN ELIZABETH SIKES



Helen Elizabeth McCullars Sikes, 83, of Hilliard, passed away November 30, 2022. She was born November 5, 1939 to the late Rufus Leon McCullars and Della Register McCullars. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death

by her husband, Samuel Jacob Sikes; a granddaughter Christina Johnson; brother Buddy McCullars; and sister Geraldine Griffin.

She is survived by her two children Denise (Frank) Tolosi and Sandra (Mike) Tolosi; four grandchildren Lisa Tolosi (Brandon) Jones, Candace Parker, Carrie (Josh) Deon and Jacob Tolosi; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a number of nieces and nephews

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Saturday, December 3 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Rev. Tim Hall officiating. Burial followed at Mill Creek Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

ELEANOR EVELYN WAKEFIELD



Eleanor Evelyn Tennant Wakefield, 83, of Callahan, passed away Sunday, November 20, 2022. She was born May 25, 1939 in Ogdensburg, New York, to the late John F. Earl and Helen Rheome Earl. The words loving, kind, caring and giving all describe mom as she would help all in any way possible. She especially made sure everyone had something to eat. If you needed help mom was always willing and would not take no for an answer. She was the foundation of our family, always there when we needed her. She loved the holidays and cooking for her family and friends. All who loved her dearly will never forget her humor, tenacity, wit, charm, grace and undying love and care for them.

She was preceded in death by her spouses, Richard David Tennant and Roger Wakefield; her son David Jon Tennant; daughter Pam Marie Mixon; siblings Wanda Burdick, Mansel Earl and Carl Earl; grandchildren Tisha Allen, Kaitlyn Tennant and Justin Shoup; and her fur baby Toto joined her shortly after her passing.

Eleanor is survived by daughters Penny (Rick) Millson, Peggy (Shawn) Smith, Amy (Darryl) Burden, Abby (Allen) Davies and Tina (Jim) Shott; sons Ricky (Heather) Tennant, Richard (Jessica) Tennant and George (Bernadette) Wishart; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

A private family "Celebration of Life" will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Jacksonville, 714-1110.

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Finalists for County Teacher of the Year Announced

Nassau County School District recently announced the top 5 Finalists for County Teacher of the Year. Teachers are chosen from each school and then compete for the County Teacher of the Year. A Gala will be held January 27 to announce the County Teacher of the Year. We have two teachers from the west side being represented.

Christa Shipper, Callahan Elementary School, 2nd Grade. Teaching is my passion, my purpose...it is more than a job for me! The potential impact I am able to have on students inspires and motivates me to be my best, to listen more, learn more, and love more than I did the day before. My classroom is led with compassion. It is my firm belief that if students know they are loved, encouraged, and shown respect, they will find success in school. Success does not always mean a perfect score; success in my classroom is highlighted by a "can-do attitude" and never giving up, even when the work is a challenge. I teach for my students, for their smiles, laughs, stories, and determination, and for those moments when they realize the true meaning of success, that by having a positive attitude and not giving up, their full potential has been reached. I teach to make an impact!

Amanda Sauls, Callahan Intermediate



Christa Shipper



Amanda Sauls

4th Grade Math, Science, and Social Studies. I teach to make a difference. As each new year begins, you are entrusted with a new class of students and their families. Through teaching, I have the privilege of investing in my students' hearts and minds daily. Whether I am supporting their social, emotional, or academic needs, they know I am there to encourage them each step of the way. Each day brings forth a new opportunity to create life-long learners and build relationships with students, their families, our community, and my teammates. I can make an immense impact by doing exactly what I have been called to do and am truly passionate about.

The other three teachers are: Solomon Johnson, Emma Love Hardee, Fernandina; Heather McBee, Wildlight Elementary; and Chad Wykle, Yulee High School.

Collecting for Toys for Tots Nassau



Collections are once again happening for Toys for Tots! There are drop boxes at all the County Fire Stations, Ace Hardwares, grocery stores, drug stores, Westside Journal, etc. For a complete list of locations, visit our website, www.toysfortots.org.

Toys are collected through Christmas as they continue to try and ensure all needs are met, even delivering toys on Christmas when there has been a need. Donations of NEW unwrapped toys may be dropped off at any location! Distribution Day is Saturday, December 17. Volunteers are needed to help sort and bag toys. To schedule a time to volunteer, please call Susan Purvis, T4T Coordinator, at 904-716-2462!

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Happy 91st Birthday, Momma...we think of you every day. We miss you, our guardian Angel.

We love you,
Terry and Tamie

RIP 12/7/20



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Congratulations Brody!

Brody Singley, a sophomore at West Nassau High School, competed at the FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) Class 2A Swim Meet in Stuart, Florida on November 18. He placed 2nd in the 500 Freestyle with a time of 4:31.43; and 3rd in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:42.31. Brody is the first swimmer from West Nassau High School to compete and place in a state meet and now for the second year in a row, as he competed and placed last year! Congratulations again, Brody!



CMS Band Student Earns High Honor

Callahan Middle School eighth grader, Zion Daniel, was recently chosen to represent Callahan in the Florida Bandmasters Association All-State Middle School Honor Band. Zion will travel to Tampa in January and meet with 120 other talented musicians from around the state to rehearse and perform a concert at the Florida Music Education Association's Annual Conference. This is the third time this year that Zion has received recognition for his talent.

This past summer, he and fellow eighth grade student, Riley McGinley, were chosen to represent Callahan in



the first ever 7 Star Honor band held in Daytona Beach.

Most recently, Zion, along with Taylor Schumacher and Lily Berner, were selected as members of the Duval/Nassau Honor Band which will meet in January. Congratulations, Zion!



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33rd Annual Dayspring Village SECRET SANTA

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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

How to get Involved:

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

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

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

www.dayspringvillage.org AL #5766

You're invited to the monthly Conviva Callahan Car & Truck Show

Presented by Conviva Care Center & Callahan Cruisers of North FLA Car Club

Join other Jacksonville seniors on the second Saturday of each month for a fun car show event with great giveaways! See great cars, take part in fun activities, and learn about senior primary care from Conviva.

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*Winners are chosen at random and must be present at the event to win. List of winners can be viewed at the DJ booth. Conviva Care Center® does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.