

**Pray
to God for
Our Nation!**

WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVII ISSUE 30

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

"LET YOUR ROOTS GROW DOWN INTO HIM, AND LET YOUR LIVES BE BUILT ON HIM. THEN YOUR FAITH WILL GROW STRONG IN THE TRUTH YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND YOU WILL OVERFLOW WITH THANKFULNESS." - COLOSSIANS 2:7

Hilliard Middle-Senior High's CNA Class Delivers!

The CNA class at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, affectionately known as The LifeSavers, has faced some disappointments this year. By now, they would normally be participating in hands on patient care at local health care facilities. COVID decided to interfere with the plans. Understandably, the students cannot be put at risk by performing normal clinical duties. The students have been working hard in the simulation lab to obtain the clinical hours needed to sit for the certification exam.

The instructor, Mrs. Cindy McClanathan, recently received an email from a nurse that she worked with for many years at St. Vincent's



Riverside. In short, she was requesting help for the very discouraged and weary healthcare staff. Healthcare is emotionally and physically demanding as is, and COVID has managed to lead many healthcare workers to hopeless burnout.

The nurse simply requested that the students at HMSHS write notes of encouragement for the staff. She did not ask for anything but encouraging notes. Per the norm of Hilliard's school and the small town, when they are asked to help, they go big. Students, faculty, clubs, local churches, and even the Hilliard Elementary second grade department worked together to provide letters, posters, prepackaged individual snacks, lotions, candy and most importantly, LOVE.

When the nursing supervisor at St. Vincent's Riverside heard of the campaign, she offered to meet with the CNA students and allow them to personally pass out the kind gestures to staff. Given all



the disappointments of this past year, the students were thrilled to be offered this opportunity. The class is so thankful for this collaborative, successful effort.

We ask that you continue to lift our healthcare workers up in prayer and continue to pray for the welfare of our country.



Fire Destroys Bryceville Home Friday



Dawn S. West

An 83-year-old Bryceville mother escaped uninjured from her home Friday morning as a fire swept through the home destroying everything in it. Thankfully, Ms. Amanda Jean Clowers was awakened and traveled the entire length of home to get out safely. Nassau County Fire-Rescue responded to the scene with several units.

Ms. Clowers is an amazing woman as she is a cancer survivor, has 1 1/2 lungs and a pacemaker. Fortunately, her children (4) live all around her, where she is currently staying until they can make plans to replace her home.

As they wait, the family has been blessed to receive some clothes for Ms. Clowers however the needs are many. The family is opening an account with Callahan VyStar for donations.

The Westside Journal will also be collecting monetary donations (checks, cash, gift cards-Winn Dixie, Walmart, etc.). Remember that she has lost everything, housewares, small appliances, towels (kitchen, bath etc.) bedding, furniture etc. Please call the Westside Journal office for large items but other items may be brought to our office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan, where they will be picked up by the family.

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Radical Right-Wing Extremist

Dear Editor,

I'm so glad that I've finally been informed of the wrong path that my life has taken, in my 70 plus years. I've been so confused and torn between which roads to take, along life's narrow way that my misinformed experiences have finally caught up with me. But thanks to our President and his congressional majority, I'm learning the things that have made me such a radical extremist who found himself mistakenly aligned with the most conservative of our populace. So that I may enlighten those of my peers, that have not yet recognized those signs in their lives that have made us deplorable to our enlightened leadership, please indulge me the opportunity to share some of those insights.

First, I was brain-washed as a child, in a radical institution (The Congregational Church), to believe in the Lord our Living God and to live by and comply with, the 10 Commandments. I suppose this was the only course I could have taken, especially considering that my Grandfather was a Protestant Minister in the Presbyterian Church. I eventually rebelled against my conservative teachings and became so radicalized that I fell into despair and married a Methodist.

In my formative years, I was taught that our fore-fathers were unique in nature, evidenced by the extraordinary accomplishments they achieved. A man who defied the establishment and stepped up, when no one else would, to become the commander of our armed forces during a revolution that should have never turned out the way it did. Another man (Also a Right-Wing Extremist) penned and enacted the Emancipation Proclamation. That, ultimately, resulted in the abolishment of slavery. Then there was an individual that proudly announced, "I shall return!" A man whose name I proudly bear, that did so and proceeded to end the War of Wars in the Pacific sending the USA into some of the most productive years of our nation. Just to name a few.

The error of my ways continued when I went on to college, further expanding upon my desire to serve in the armed forces, with R.O.T.C. training and education. Inspired by my desire to make a difference, during an unpopular time to serve, I went on to volunteer in the armed forces of our country. That decision was instrumental in helping me to develop a career, in further service to our nation, which continued for 30 more years after my military service obligation was over. In both jobs I also took the oath that included the

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.

phrase; "to protect and defend the constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, both foreign and domestic."

Through all those years we failed to do the socially correct thing. We sacrificed to send two sons on to further their educations for successful careers without the need for student loans or extra mortgages, there by relieving them of that worry as they accomplished their studies and objectives. Obviously, an extremist move that demonstrated our radical views while displaying our systemic racism with "White Privilege."

Another demonstration of our radical extremism is that we have now lived in and successfully paid off the mortgage for a home for over 45 years. In doing so, we have developed numerous friends and relationships spreading our form of radical extremism. In addition, we have expanded our "Carbon Footprint" by enjoying road trips and vacations, to some of the most sought after destinations by the non-caring populace. We have totally ignored all the climate change alarmists by doing so in a gas-guzzling motorhome. Why? Because a "person like me has to travel this way, to be able to do what we do!" Foolishly believing, that after a successful career and raising a family that has gone on to be successful in their own right, we could enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Finally, there is the ultimate transgression I've found that identifies me as a Radical Right-Wing Extremist. I own firearms! They date back to the mid 1800's up to and including two purchased in the recent years. The antiques are proudly on display with the more functional, and operational, locked up and unloaded. Why do I have them? Five are family heirlooms and two are beautifully designed pieces of art that are very reliable and a joy to have.

So if you have recognized any of the traits above, no matter how many or few you may have, you too are likely falling into the category of a "Radical Right Wing Extremist" and are in desperate need of being re-educated to conform to the rapidly expanding demands of our society. Ever optimistic about meeting new people and sharing, I look forward to seeing you in the newly formed schools for the socialistic empowered that I'm sure we'll all have to attend. Don't worry, we won't be forced to sing the National Anthem, say the pledge or pray at any time in our "Re-Education" classes!

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

Words of Appreciation

Dear Editor,

Gospel Artist, the late Reverend Andrae Crouch, wrote a song entitled My Tribute, and the first verse in the song states, how can I say thanks for the things you have done for me? Things so undeserved yet you gave to prove your love for me the voices of a million angels cannot express my gratitude all that I am and ever hope to be I owe it all to you.

To the ladies who thought well enough of me to give me accolades and a token of love not only from them but from a community of people that I have the great pleasure of serving, sometimes six times out of the week, thank you from the bottom of my heart for recognizing me not only for the job I do but for just being who my mother raised me to be. I'm still overwhelmed and overjoyed but the fact that this community, that I call home, thought that much of me to show me appreciation. Love is action and love isn't love until you give it away. To the customers that did this and to the community of Hilliard, thank you!

"The Lord bless you; the Lord keep you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26 NIV

Yours Truly,
Michael E. Taylor, Jr.

In Response

Dear Editor,

I wish to offer kudos to Mr. Watkins letter on February 4th regarding the current [Biden] administration's socialist approach and takeover of the U.S. government. It is very obvious to me that Mr. Biden is not operating on his own and is following guidelines given to him by Obama and by the progressives who are now controlling the Democratic Party. He has not given any consideration to the outcomes of his decisions he has made. For example his Title 9 decision to allow certain males to compete against women in sports programs. Why did he do that? Purely to appease the Teachers Union without regard to the consequences! And how does that create the unity that he promised during his campaign for President? And what about the jobs he promised to create? Ask the pipeline employees who are now eligible to draw unemployment benefits thanks to Biden's decision to squash their livelihood!

Canada is now scowling at America's newly "elected" president and for good reason. And look at the debacle at our southern border. Illegal immigrants are stacking up in droves. Another amazing point is Biden's inability to discuss the whys and wherefores of his

executive order directives. Other than that they were reversals of Trump's previous orders. It doesn't matter that those orders were of great benefit to the recipients! Biden boasted that he would be a President for all Americans. He has a strange way of showing that sentiment! Personally, I don't believe he is able to function on his own and is merely a pawn for the progressives in the party. This is sad not only for him but for America and only the Grace of God can bring us through what lies ahead for the next four years.

Last but not least, we cannot allow the Biden administration to take away our guns no matter what noble cause that they may present. If they are able to somehow accomplish that incomprehensible deed then we would have surrendered to the NEW WORLD ORDER and America would be down the tubes and lost forever!

Frank Kearns, Sr.

America

Dear Editor,

Where are we at in America today? The Apostle Paul described the America we live in today very well in his second letter to Timothy. Timothy followed Paul on several of his missionary trips. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5

When will Christians in America wake up, get their heads out of the sand and start seeking revival in our land? We Christians must remember that revival starts with us as individuals before we can ask for revival as a nation. People we are in a spiritual war! The people that occupy the White House and the majority of the Senate and Congress are not who we are at war with. It is the evil one that controls them. Satan. Pray for these people! Ephesians 6:10-12, Paul tells us: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the LORD, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

So, we must be prepared to do battle with Satan every day and pray for revival to come to our nation! JESUS is our only salvation.

Hank Martinez, Sr.

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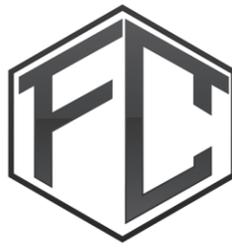
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A Word From the Publisher

Being the great weather forecaster I am (NOT), I'm close to thinking this is the longest winter we (Florida) have had in many years! Obviously I'm a warm/hot weather person. I don't really mind if it is cold however I do long for the sun to come out. It seems when we don't have any sunshine...life seems pretty gloomy and I struggle to get things done! It brings out the lazy side of me...one that Roger doesn't seem to think I have. I do but only occasionally!

We've all been through some strange and weird ways these days. Believe it or not, it's coming up on a year that this virus/pandemic has affected our lives. I know this because Roger and I had the bright idea to get six of our grandchildren prior to spring break last year. They were out of school on Friday and then the entire next week for spring break. For some crazy reason (God's plan) we got them on Thursday night and brought them home with us. That was a loud but fun night! Friday we trekked out to do some fun 'spring break' things. The children ended up spending Friday night also. Sometime on Saturday we returned them to their homes. It was an awesome few days and so thankful we did it as by Monday things began closing down. The children never went back to school. Again, thankful for the special fun time we had with them making memories!

It is oh so easy to complain however, we are so blessed. I know it's sometimes hard to see but we are. It all goes back to one of my favorite things, counting my blessings. As I've said previously, the times we are in, the only thing to do is keep your eyes on Jesus! Each morning I wake up, I'm thankful. Our children are in school and learning, thankful. I have a job that I love and I'm still working, thankful. I have a beautiful home, a roof over my head, a husband that loves me and food to

eat, thankful. Our parents are well, our children are working and all are healthy and happy, thankful. We have endured some rain, but no tornadoes, thankful. We're a little soggy in places, but not under 6 feet of snow, thankful. I'm one of those sissy Florida people that if we have cold temperatures two days in a row, I'm pretty freezing!

Yes, the gloomy skies can make things a little somber, but then God opens the skies and you see the beautiful sun rays breaking through the clouds. I can only imagine how much the Lord enjoys being the master painter of the heavens. His masterpieces are incredible, even the cloudy ones! Again, when your day is seemingly long, take a little break and walk outside just for a minute and look up to heaven...God is in control. We must keep our focus on Him and follow His direction for our lives.

I must say another huge thank you to all the people that drop-in, send emails and call the office with words of encouragement. The past year has really been a struggle for many of us but those kind words and thoughts have meant so much. Once again, we are so blessed with great advertisers that continue to support our effort. And to you our readers who continue to support, shop and use our advertisers. It works both ways. These people are just trying to make a living as we are. Your support of their business only helps both of us out. We must all work together to get through this crisis, helping each other along the way. I pray God's blessings upon each of our businesses each day. One day at a time, with God's direction and help, we can succeed!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

The socialist democrats have wasted no time in turning America into a socialist state. Biden has already signed more executive orders than his days in office, sounds like Dictatorship. However, that's just part of our problems. Democrat Sheila Jackson of Texas has introduced a House Bill titled "Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing and Registration Act," also known as H.R. 127. This dangerous Bill is for the Federal Registration and Licensing of firearms and ammunition.

In general, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, shall establish a system for licensing the possession of firearms and/or ammunition in the United States, and for registration with the Bureau of each firearm present in the United States. It requires the owner of a firearm to submit to the Bureau the make, model, and serial number of each firearm, the identity of the owner, the date acquired and where the firearm is or will be stored.

It only gets worse, the Attorney General will issue a license to possess a firearm and ammunition if the individual is at least 21 years of age, undergoes a criminal background check, undergoes a psychological evaluation by a Federal approved psychologist, successfully

completes a training course, certified by the Attorney General, in the use, safety, and storage of firearms that includes at least 24 hours of training.

Of course it attacks any firearm with the capability of holding a magazine of more than 10 rounds and shotguns that are capable of holding more than 5 shells. They can also require that other family members including ex-spouses be interviewed to determine if you should be allowed to own a firearm. The Bill requires an \$800 registration fee and if a person violates any of the sections of the bill, they shall be fined from \$50,000 up to \$150,000 and/or sentenced to prison from 5 years to 25 years.

I am afraid if this Bill passes that it will be the straw that broke the camel's back. This is so dangerous but not surprising. Everyone needs to contact Rep. Rutherford and our Senator's and boldly stand against this or any other 2nd Amendment infringement, if you can find a way. Following are the numbers of contact for: Congressman John Rutherford, 1-202-225-2501; Senator Rick Scott, 1-202-224-5274; and Senator Marco Rubio, 1-202-224-3041.

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

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The Caravan Is On the Way

Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God



Do you ever feel like you are trapped in a situation where there seems to be no way out? Have you ever felt like everything was hopeless? I want to remind you of a story in the Bible of a young man who was facing similar circumstances. His name was Joseph. Joseph's brothers hated him because he was the favorite son of his father. One day Joseph had a dream, and when he shared his dream with his brothers they hated him all the more. It wasn't long after that, that Joseph's father sent him out into the field to check on his brothers who were tending the flocks. When his brothers saw him coming from a distance they made a plot to kill Joseph and throw him into a cistern.

So, when Joseph came to his brothers they stripped him of the robe that his father had given him and threw him into a cistern. While they were eating, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded down with goods that they were planning to sell when they arrived in Egypt. Joseph's brother Judah, saw the caravan coming and he said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." (Gen. 37:26-27)

So, his brothers agreed to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelite Caravan. If it had not showed up at just the right time, Joseph was as good as dead. God used this caravan to rescue Joseph from his hopeless looking situation.

Sometimes we don't understand why we go through the things that we do, but keep in mind God knows right where you are. God has a plan for your life and He has a caravan on the way for you. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Even though Joseph's situation looked hopeless, God had a caravan on the way to rescue him from his brother's plan to kill him. I want you to know that God has a plan for each of us and we need to learn to trust him. We don't always understand why we go through some of the things we do, but if we will learn to put our trust in God, He will make a way where there seems to be no way.

Joseph's hopeless looking situation was the beginning of several trials that he would face over the next 13 years, but God showed up just in time on every occasion. God had big plans ahead for Joseph so that he could spare the lives of all of his father's family in the years to come. You need to know that God has great plans for you as well. Jesus said in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!"

If you're reading this today and you feel like you are facing things in your life that you don't have any control over, keep in mind that God has a caravan on the way for you!

Visit THE CUP Food Ministry

THE CUP Food Ministry at First Baptist Church of Gray Gables has provided a community food pantry for Nassau County for more than 20 years. At this time, in order to better serve during this food crisis, the church food pantry will be available to Nassau County and all surrounding counties. THE CUP hours will remain the same: every Monday from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.



For more information call the church office at 879-2986. THE CUP is located at US Highway 1 and Church Road in the Office/Youth building on the north side of campus. THE CUP will still be available monthly to families in need.

"For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in MY name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward." Mark 9:41 NKJV

Free Wednesday Community Dinners Continue

Dawn S. West

As a small business, I enjoy reaching out and helping where I can. Gordon and Becky Gresch, of Jacksonville, have been hosting the Wednesday Community dinners for over 12 years. "We just love this community, saw a need, and searched for a way that we could help," said the Gresches.

The dinners used to be held at the multi-purpose building at the fairgrounds for years every Wednesday night...fast forward to 2020 and the pandemic. All county buildings were closed to the public. Now realizing the need for food was even greater, the couple searched for another venue. Pastor Dan Search of Callahan First United Methodist Church stepped up to the plate and offered his social hall to do walk-up dinners, continuing on Wednesday nights.

The dinners, who are provided by Callahan Barbecue, are picked up, brought to the church, boxed and separated and given out beginning at 5 p.m. There are some sponsors for the dinners. We, the Westside Journal,

sponsor the dinner once a month. Sponsors may come and help give out the dinners or just go pay Callahan Barbecue for that night. Just being a part of such a special group of people is a wonderful feeling. Seeing the smiles on people's faces and hearing them being so thankful for a hot meal is so rewarding. It's such a small price to help someone out.

Sponsors are needed this year more than ever. It's really not hard. All you have to do is email Becky or call her. Maybe you only want to sponsor one time, every quarter, or once a month. She has a schedule and basically can put you where you want to be. There have been sponsors that sponsored in honor or memory of someone for their birthday, anniversary or as a Christmas gift. We are currently feeding around 200 people. It's a small cost...for a lot of good.

For more information call Becky at: 904-309-3735 or email her at: jaxgresch@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your blessing!

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CHURCH NEWS

KIDZ Jam Adventure! Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan! Wednesday nights through March 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m. All children ages 5 and up are welcome! For more information call 879-1907 or email Kidz@FriendshipCMA.org.

North Hilliard Baptist Church invites you to come as you are, Sundays at 11 a.m. The church is located at 552823 US Highway 1, Hilliard.

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Fifty Students Win Competitions at FBLA Competition

This year's Future Business Leaders of America District Competition was unlike any prior with students having to make their presentations virtually. Despite the changes, several Nassau County students won their respective events and qualified to participate in the state competition in March.

FBLA District 4 consists of Baker, Duval, and Nassau Counties, and Nassau County is proud to once again have produced the most district champions. Together, 50 Nassau students combined to take 29 individual and 11 team events.

Hilliard Middle/Senior High School took home the most trophies with 22 students combining to win 16 individual events and 3 team events. Hilliard's Katie Lewis (Word Processing) and Yulee's Robert Cooke (Computer Game and Simulation Programming) each earned 90% or higher of the total possible points in their respective competitions.

Angela Aarons (FBMS), Jennie Jenkins (FBHS), Paul Mizenko (HMSHS), Brian Simmons (NTCC - Multiple Schools) and Faith Sims (WNHS) serve as chapter advisors.

Following is a list of the west side schools (WNHS & HMSHS) first-place winners from West Nassau High School: Elizabeth Guyton and Destiny Lamb, Broadcast Journalism Team 3; Morgan Cothren and Alexander Lee, Digital Video Team 1; Diamond Brown, Emily Lee and Kaitlyn Rhoden,

Hopitality & Event Management Team 1; Carrie Avis, Introduction to Business; Ryann McGinley, Introduction to Social Media Strategy Team 1; Rebecca Tyer and Bailey Walker, Marketing Team 1; Elizabeth Dent, Networking Infrastructures; Destiny Armstrong, Ashton Bacon and Lacey Libby, Public Service Announcement Team 2; and Morgan Cothren, Supply Chain Management.

From Hilliard Middle-Senior High School: Courtney Taylor, Accounting 1; Isabella Geiger, Advertising; Geroge Chen, Business Calculations; Emma Jarrett, Business Communication; Wyatt Roddenberry, Computer Problem Solving; Alexis Augstin, Madilyn Fryer and Jayle Weiler, Graphic Design Team 2; Mattie Lewis, Health Care Administration; Gannon Kassab, Introduction to Business Communication; Abigail Jarrett, Introduction to Information Technology; Avery Johnson, Journalism; Alexander Poultney, Management Decision Making Team 1; Abigail Wood, ML Business Etiquette; Aubre Lewis, ML Career Exploration; Aiden Johnson, ML Digital Citizenship; Layla Cunningham, ML Parliamentary Procedure Concepts; Amelia Dyal, Organizational Leadership; Jenna Graves, Securities & Investments; Malik Farakhhan and James Hengerer, Sports & Entertainment Management Team 2; and Katie Lewis, Word Processing. Congratulations!

T.J...A Laborer of God's Love

Dawn S. West

In October 2015, I shared the story of T.J. Harrison about his victory from the 'bottle' to the Bible. T.J. shared with me how the Lord brought him from the grip of death from addiction to a complete life in Christ. T.J., who earlier in his life was saved, chose to live life in his, way placing God on the back burner. At 50 years old, he lost his job, his marriage and children and turned to alcohol for comfort. Eventually, he found himself in the hospital in a coma, clinging to life from alcohol poisoning. "It's real. There is nothing like reality slapping you right in the face," said T.J. "All the time I wasted struggling through my life looking...when all along Jesus was right there knocking on my heart's door. I was truly at death's door when I asked Jesus to give me another chance. I promised to give my all to Him. He did and I am!"



After months of recovery from a massive stroke and brain injury, T.J. never forgot the promise he made to God. He made it his life's ministry to share his story with everyone about the love of Jesus and the promise of salvation. T.J. credits his recovery to the unwavering love of his mother that continued to pray for him and comfort him with God's words from the Bible. T.J. began attending and joined Lannie Road Baptist Church in Jacksonville where he was mentored by Pastor Buddy Wimberly. From there T.J. became youth pastor at the church and also started a ministry for addicts, Totally 4 Jesus, It's All About Him. He continued his education in theology and counseling. In 2017, he got married to Debbie. "Debbie and I have shared so much together. She also loves the Lord," added T.J. "We start each morning with devotions that only deepen our love

for Christ. We are so thankful the Lord brought us together."

In October 2020, T.J. began having some health issues again. This time he was conscious when he went to the hospital but unfortunately, due to the virus, Debbie wasn't allowed inside.

Several tests were done to try to figure out what was causing his pain in his stomach area. T.J. was told he had a mass in his colon area and that he would be admitted and the doctors were going to do exploratory surgery. Once the surgery was done, T.J. was told that the mass was too large and affected too many organs to remove. He was told he had stage 4 terminal cancer. T.J. decided at that time not to do any treatment as he wanted his quality of life to be quality. "I still have a lot of work to do for the Lord. There are still too many people that need to be saved," continued T.J. "I've asked God to give me peace and happiness and He has. I'm in the best place in my life. God has answered my prayers to give me strength to continue my ministry."

Through it all, T.J. has begun yet another ministry for youth. It is an armband ministry called P.R.E.P.S. (Praise, Respect, Example, Pleasing, Servant for God). Obviously, this is also a great reminder for people of all ages of what our service for our Lord should be! On Saturday, February 27, T.J. will be at the Callahan Winn Dixie from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., giving away armbands. Donations will be accepted and this is only so he can continue his ministry. T.J. wants to share his success story with other churches and youth groups.

For more information contact him directly at: 904-437-8477. T.J. covets your prayers for his continued ministries. God's blessings to you T.J.!

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Ms. Ophelia Morgan Judson Celebrates 106th Birthday



Ms. Ophelia Morgan Judson, of Callahan, celebrated her 106th birthday February 8. Ms. Ophelia was born February 8, 1915, right here in Callahan. She was born and raised out near the fairgrounds area. She recalls at a young age, her family attended a Methodist Church but later joined Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, where she still is a member and tithes regularly. She still recalls waking up early in the morning on Sundays, getting dressed and walking to church. She beat everyone else there but waited patiently until the services began. She can remember as a young child helping her father, as he was a custodian at the school.

Later, she found herself working at Pine Forest Community School in the lunchroom.

She received her nursing certificate and worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant working at the Eartha White Nursing Home in Jacksonville for about 10 years. She later took care of her father in his elderly years and also a brother. Her life has been taking care of and serving others' needs. She is humbled but proud to say she was never fired from a job and always worked hard at everything she did. She still has a much younger sister that lives in Philadelphia. Visitors, which she enjoys, have been limited due to the virus. She attributes her life and good health to the Lord. "I've always been truthful and hard working in everything I've done," said Ms. Ophelia. "It's the only way to be. The Lord has truly blessed my life."

Nellie Smith Celebrates 90th Birthday



Nellie Steverson Smith, of Callahan, celebrated her 90th birthday February 10. Ms. Nellie was born February 10, 1931 in Jacksonville, Georgia. She is a precious woman with a beautiful smile. She is a faithful member of Callahan First Baptist Church and loves her Lord! You are the best mother in the whole world! She celebrated her special milestone with her family.

Ms. Nellie has six children Ava Sears of Callahan, Susan (Jim) Pearson-King of Nicholls, Georgia, Mary Ellen (Tony) Perez of Callahan, Sharon (Cecil) Dixon of Jacksonville, Randall (Liz) Smith of Bryceville and Nancy Sands of Callahan; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren!

Ilah Leeann Slayton

Corey and Kelli Slayton, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ilah Leeann Slayton. Ilah was born December 30, 2020 at 12:36 p.m. at Baptist Hospital Jacksonville. She weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Deanna Cubbedge of Hilliard; and Ronnie Slayton, Jr. of Callahan.

Maternal grandparents are Jesse and Cherie Caswell of Hilliard.

Proud great-grandparents are Brenda Silcox and the late Cary Silcox; Diane Drury; Ronnie Slayton; Barbara Colley; the late Peter Jarvis; and the late Robert and Barbara Caswell.

Ilah was welcomed home by her big brother Luke!



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HMSHS Agriculture Excelling and Holding Show Hog Raffle

Alyson McCullough

Agriscience Teacher and FFA Advisor

Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Agriculture Education continues to flourish and even grow despite the pandemic challenges. Senior Malik Farahkhan was selected out of hundreds of entries to be one of the five students in Northeast Florida to receive the Greater Jacksonville FFA (Future Farmers of America) Scholarship. We are so proud of his accomplishments!

Students planted and harvested a lovely fall garden full of lettuces, broccoli, greens and cauliflower. We look forward to hosting a Spring Community Plant Sale and vegetable picking for the community from our summer garden!

Agriculture Education students sat for the AEST certification in the fall and were among the top in the state with over a 90% pass rate. Certifications were developed through comprehensive needs assessments and job analysis within the agriculture industry. AEST Certifications are meeting industry needs



by identifying workers with specific, employer-demanded knowledge, skills and abilities to support hiring practices and fill the gap in employment needs. Certifications also generate funding for Agriculture Education and allow us to continue to thrive as a self-sustaining program.



Three of our FFA females completed their 5th Agriculture CAPE credit qualifying them for the Florida Bright Futures GOLD Seal Scholarship.

Students are building a poultry pen for a chick hatchery, pullet pen, and separated housing for breeds as their program grows. We completely sold out of our first hatched batch of over 50 chicks in three days! We thank the community for their endless love and support and remembering "No Farms, No Food." You can follow us on Facebook at Hilliard FFA to see student progress, keep up to date on the community garden days and enjoy watching the students develop the skills necessary to be an educated consumer.

We are also doing a Show Hog

Beasley Signs with JAA

Congratulations to Hilliard Middle-Senior High School senior Lane Beasley who just signed with Jacksonville Athletic Academy. Lane will continue his education with Florida State College of Jacksonville and his football career with JAA. He is the son of Brian and Heather Beasley of Callahan.



Beasley officially committed on February 3 announcing on his Twitter account. He posted the following: "I would like to start off by thanking God for this opportunity and getting me to where I'm at today! Thank you to my coaches, teammates and family for pushing me to do my best day in and day out!" Beasley, who currently holds a 3.2 GPA, will take this time at FSCJ to earn his Associates Degree and work towards a degree in Business or Sports Management. Playing football with JAA, Beasley will have the opportunity to compete with highly competitive junior colleges, 4-year colleges, JVs, and college club teams.

Beasley, who transferred to Hilliard for his senior year, is a multi-sport athlete competing in both football and basketball. His leadership on and off the

playing field has not gone unnoticed. School staff describes him as a 'model student athlete' and a 'pleasure to have on campus'. Coach John Pate says, "Lane has a burning desire to be better. From the day he walked in the door, I knew he was going to be a great player for us."

Jacksonville Athletic Academy is a new, official college sports program under the National Independent Athletic Association (NIAA). Membership in the NIAA allows for athletes in trade schools, community, junior and sports colleges an opportunity to compete for conference and national championships. JAA is a 2-year junior college athletic site for student athletes on various levels who are seeking to develop their academic and athletic skills while becoming NCAA eligible.

Raffle! The winner can request for the hog to be delivered to Wainwright Meats for free by calling 912-462-5593! Tickets are \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$20. Tickets are available for purchase

at the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan, 879-4180. The drawing will be held Monday, March 1. Buy your tickets now to support the Agriculture Program at HMSHS.

Nice to meet you.

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Mark Brinkman, DO



Mark Brinkman, DO, is the newest family medicine doctor in town, joining Warren Groff, MD, and Stephanie Meyer, MD, at Baptist Primary Care's location in Callahan. Dr. Brinkman is passionate about family medicine because it allows him to form long-lasting relationships with his patients and to anticipate their health care needs. Dr. Brinkman is currently accepting new patients age 4 and up!

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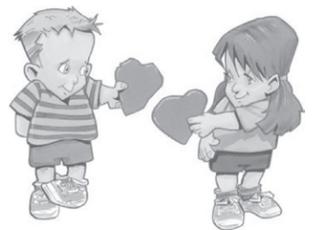
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Barnabas Annual Meeting Highlights Successes

On January 28, Barnabas Center held its annual membership meeting at which speakers highlighted expansion updates and the nonprofit agency's crisis relief efforts during the pandemic. In addition, new board members were welcomed: Bishop Dwayne Campbell, Bishop Thomas Coleman, Liza Cotter, May Lyn Gulmatico, Ed Hubel, and Pastor Dan Search.



Shown (l to r) are new board members: Bishop Dwayne Campbell, Bishop Thomas Coleman, Liza Cotter, May Lyn Gulmatico, Ed Hubel, and Pastor Dan Search.

President and CEO, Wanda Lanier, presented highlights of Barnabas' crisis relief efforts during the pandemic. The most significant need was for emergency food assistance for struggling residents. Through partnerships, grants and donations from the City of Fernandina Beach, the Amelia Island Sunrise and Greater Nassau Rotary Clubs, the Elm Street Sportsman Association, churches, businesses, individuals, and civic groups, Barnabas was able to provide 7,500 households with 333,000 meals through 220 food distributions throughout the county.

Due to significant job losses caused by the pandemic, Barnabas stepped up to provide \$384,465 in financial assistance for rent, mortgage, utility, and car payments to help stabilize 320 local workers and struggling families who needed short term financial aid. This was accomplished through a partnership with the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, with investments and grants from the Amelia Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, Nassau County Board of Commissioners, and the First Coast

Relief Fund. Ms. Lanier noted that the need for assistance for food and financial assistance increased 300% and 200%, respectively. The requests for assistance are continuing at those levels in 2021.

Ms. Lanier also reported on the agency's increased outreach to west Nassau County. Outreach highlights include a mobile health team, expanded mobile food distributions, medical and financial assistance services in Callahan, and dental services in Hilliard. In addition, Barnabas New to You resale store will expand to Yulee in May, 2021.

Jonathan Simpson, Board Treasurer, announced that Barnabas received the Charity Navigator highest 4-star rating for efficiency, effectiveness and transparency for 14 years in a row; only 1% of charities rated in the US achieved this status. In addition, Simpson announced that Barnabas recently received the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency.

For more information about Barnabas' services and programs, visit www.BarnabasNassau.org.

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.

Thursday, February 4

Thomas Howard Abney, 63, 2361 Prarie Dog Lane, Bryceville: Burglary Dwelling Unoccupied; Grand Theft more than 20K Less than 100K

Friday, February 5

Kenneth Ray Treiting, 40, 54283 Lawhon Road, Callahan: Writ of Bodily Attachment

Robbers Caught and Arrested

On Thursday morning, February 4, 2021, at approximately 1 a.m., the Nassau County Sheriff's Office was notified of a robbery that occurred at the Circle K Convenience Store, 551726 US Highway 1 in Hilliard. While deputies were responding they received a possible description of the getaway vehicle which was described as a light colored van traveling southbound on US 1. A deputy observed the possible vehicle speeding southbound and attempted to conduct a traffic stop.



Tre' Corbett



Gregory Crawford

The driver of the van refused to stop and continued southbound. Stop sticks were deployed in the area of US 1 and Brandies Ave. in Callahan, which deflated the front tires on the van, which came to a stop at US 1 and Penny Lane. Two suspects were in the vehicle and detained pending the investigation. The investigation revealed both suspects

traveled to Nassau County from Jacksonville to see how they could make some money. When they stopped at the Circle K in Hilliard the right front passenger got out and entered the store while the driver remained in the vehicle. The suspect in the store proceeded to a cigarette rack and started loading packs of cigarettes into a black trash bag. When the store employee confronted him the suspect struck the employee in the face with his fist and ran out of the store and jumped in the van which took off southbound on US 1 heading back towards Jacksonville.

Arrested were: Tre' Daquane Corbett, 29, from Jacksonville, charged with Robbery; and Gregory Gerrod Crawford, 36, from Jacksonville, charged with Robbery, Fleeing and Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer and Driving While License Suspended.

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SHARON KAY FARREN



Sharon Kay Farren, of Utah, formerly of Callahan, passed away November 22, 2020. She was born May 19, 1947 Sharon was born in Lodi, California to Martha Clariece Millsaps and Therman Lloyd Parsons. She is preceded in death by her parents; and her husband David Duane Farren.

She is survived by her daughter Shawna Roberts; grandchildren; and younger sister Janice Rae Burr.

Sharon was an oil painter that would pull pictures out of her head and put it onto canvas for so many to see. She was very artistic and was able to create many beautiful things that she had entered in contests or sold, from her oil paintings, Latch Hooks, Tea/Saucer, fork and spoon waterfalls, fabric ornaments and many other things. To meet Sharon, you would love her. Her smile was warm and genuine. She was very giving and warm spirited. She treated everyone like a friend or close family member. She loved to celebrate early and couldn't wait to enjoy gifts.

Sharon married David D. Farren on February 14, 2004, in Redding, California. They moved to Callahan and bought a house on Sharon's birthday in 2007. They lived there happily until David passed away of cancer on May 26, 2020. Sharon's daughter, Shawna came out and moved her to live with her family in Northern Utah where she would sit on the front porch and look at the beautiful mountains and listen to the birds and enjoy the beauty. She wanted to paint more however, her own cancer had other means in which it took over her kidneys

OBITUARIES

and she fell ill from the illness. Sharon did get to enjoy seeing her grandchildren and learned she was going to become a great-grandmother in May of 2021. She was not able to keep fighting to be able to see the first sonogram, but was able to see her younger sister Janice, before taking ill for the final time and was placed on Hospice where she was very comfortable at home when she took her last breath with her daughter beside her.

A memorial service will be held Friday, February 12 at 1:30 p.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery, on Lannie Road. Sharon will be honored as well as David, where the Honor Guard will present the flag to David's oldest daughter Toni Mace. Family and close friends are invited to come pay their respects.

David and Sharon will be re-united together forever in death on their anniversary weekend. May they both rest in peace together forever.

MICHAEL FREDERICK JABAUT



Michael Frederick Jabaut, 76, passed away February 2, 2021. Michael was born January 30, 1945, in Plattsburgh, New York, to the late Clarence and Veronica LeClaire Jabaut. Mike, as he was known, will be missed by his loved ones and friends alike. He was well known for his bigger than life smile.

He was strong and proud with a gentle side that those who knew him admired him for. Being the proud patriot that he was, when called by his country for service in Vietnam, he not only heeded the call, but helped persuade more than 20 of his friends to join him in service in the US Marines. That group collectively became known as "The North Country Platoon."

Upon returning from Vietnam, he married the love of his life, Lynn, and started their life together. He began working for UA Local 773 as a Plumber/Pipefitter/Specialty Welder, a career that spanned over 30 years. Also during that time Mike and Lynn started a very successful line of Dachshunds. MIKLYN's Dachshunds, as it was known, lineage can be found in many of the top dachshunds worldwide. He was a proud husband, father, grandfather, patriot and always a Marine. He was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Veronica Dubuque.

Michael leaves behind his loving wife of 51 years, Evelyn 'Lynn' Jabaut; son Timothy (Colleen) Jabaut; daughter Dana Brown; brother Gerald (Arlene) Jabaut; sister Cheryl (Jim) Murray; grandchildren Hayden, Tessa, Logan (Taylor), Lexie and Kamea; and numerous cousins.

The family received friends Monday, February 8 at Nassau Funeral Home. A Mass service was held for Michael Tuesday, February 9 at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church in Callahan. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to American Legion Post 401, Hilliard.

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

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

TIMOTHY "TIM" MCANALLEN



Timothy "Tim" David McAnallen, 52, passed away Tuesday, February 2, 2021, after complications from COVID and pneumonia. He was born on November 9, 1968 in Jacksonville, Florida to the late, Joseph and Beatrice McAnallen. Tim resided in Callahan since 1999.

Tim was truly a strong believer in the Lord, hardworking, very humble, dependable, thoughtful, giving, caring most not knowing. He exemplified the Book of Timothy (akin in name) as a deacon and evidenced by the outpouring of love expressed by those who had the honor to know has pleasantly overwhelmed his family.

He is survived by his wife Darlene McAnallen; two sons Benjamin (Amber) Dyer and Charles (Amber) McCorkel; six grandsons; siblings Patti Walker, Joe McAnallen, Mary (Mark) Juen, Mike (Debbie) McAnallen, his twin brother Tom (Melissa) McAnallen and Michelle Stewart; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 13 at 11 a.m. at Hope Baptist Church, 826 Reynolds Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32254. It will be streamed live on Facebook at Hope Baptist Church Live.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hope Baptist Church Mission's Program.

Obituaries are published free of charge.
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Thought of the week...
Father, help me walk in Your light every day.

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Hilliard Approves Rezoning on First Reading

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night (a 3-hour meeting) for their first meeting in February. Since the pandemic, the council has only had one regular meeting per month and one meeting to address payables. This meeting covered a lot of material.

The meeting opened with a Public Hearing on Ordinance 2021-02 which concerned rezoning 26 acres of property at the corner of Kings Ferry Road and Old Pineridge Road from A-1 (Agricultural) to PUD (Planned Unit Development). The property in question has been purchased and a 72 home development is planned. Courtney Gaver, representing Roger Towers, P.A., advised the council that the property has 6 acres of wetlands, will also include a park area for residents on the 26 plus acres of land. "This equals out to about 2.8 homes per acre," said Gaver.

Hilliard resident Jessica Mekara addressed the council concerning the property. "I'm not against this because I know the development is coming however once you factor in the wetlands, a park and roads, that leaves about 16.94 acres for building," said Mekara. "The way I see it that figures out to about 6 homes per acre. I live right down the road from this. Everyone around has nice property and room around them. I'm not saying don't build it, I'm just asking why don't you build less and give people more room?"

Other concerns were brought up about the development: Does there need to be a right turn lane on Kings Ferry Road for all the additional traffic? Is there room for a school bus and/or

firetruck to get down the roads? Are there going to be sidewalks on both sides of the roads?

The council approved the rezoning on First Reading but is looking for answers to the concerns before moving forward. The Public Hearing and Second and Final Reading will be Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

In other business, Bill Prange, PE, Associate Vice-President, Sr. Engineer of AECOM, addressed the council concerning current project updates for the Hilliard Airpark. "Four projects are already scheduled and in the works to begin soon: Renovation of existing hangars and construction of new Box Hangar; Design and install of Security and Video Cameras; Design and Construction of Maintenance Building; and Design and Maintenance of an improved Turf Program," said Prange. "Upcoming projects include: Acquire land on both the north and south ends of the Airpark; Remove trees and complete the fencing of the entire property; Install a Runway Lighting System (LED); Install Runway Flashing Lights and a new Windsock. These projects are all on the books with funding by the FAA and FDOT."

The next agenda item concerned the Planning & Zoning Board recommending the approval of a lot split reconfiguration for homeowners Tim and Iris Campbell. The council approved the request.

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis requested approval to acquire bank credit cards for I.T. and Department Heads. "This would make purchasing easier for the departments, rather than having to fill out credit applications and wait for a check to be cut," said Purvis.

After much discussion, the council approved the request.

The council approved Resolution 2021-03 which concerned amending Resolution 2020-07, setting forth the Rules & Regulations programs and fees for the Parks & Recreation Department. "I'm trying to encourage the faculty and staff of Hilliard Elementary and Hilliard Middle-Senior High Schools to join our fitness center," said Gabe Whittenburg, Parks & Recreation Director. "They have all been through a difficult year and the fitness center is a good way to release stress! This will allow the staff and faculty to enjoy a discounted individual membership for \$25 per month."

"I am also requesting approval to look, possibly advertise for a gymnastics Instructor/Coach," added Whittenburg. "We need one and the sooner the better as we are registering students now."

The council approved the request.

"Here's a little update on my department. Basketball is on their last two weeks and has been a great, enjoyable program for all. It's been great seeing everyone having a good

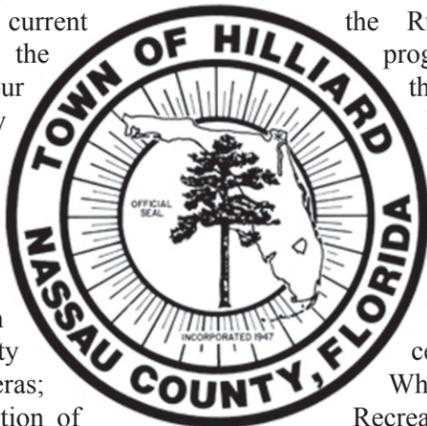
time," said Whittenburg. "I hope you all have noticed the lighting in the gym is much better and brighter, thanks to Hal Keene. Currently, we (the department) are holding sign-ups for gymnastics and soccer. I'm encouraging all of you (council) to sign up for our 5K coming at the end of the month!"

The next item agenda was a discussion concerning the right of way on Orange Street. The owners of the Scussel property would like to sell their mother's home but cannot get financing due to the right of way. "This issue occurred years ago and it's a very difficult situation. I can see four options and possibly more about this situation," said Town Attorney Christian Waugh. "The town can do nothing; The town can vacate the Right of Way (which I don't recommend); The town can move the house; Or the property owners can move the house."

After much discussion, the council reminded the Scussel family that this problem occurred some years ago. Perhaps you can do owner financing and leave things as they are.

The final agenda item was added by Council President John Beasley concerning setting a joint workshop with the Town of Callahan and the NE FL Fair Association concerning joining together for fireworks. The workshop was set for Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. following the Hilliard council meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. to handle payables only followed by the joint workshop with Callahan.



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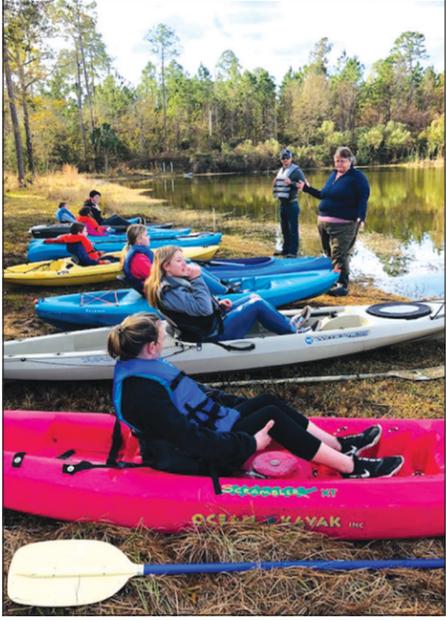
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Outdoor Adventure Day A Success



To say that Extreme Outdoors had a fantastic day at their recent Children's Outdoor Adventure Day is a bit of an understatement! The weather was perfect and there were 60 children, along with their parents, learning new outdoor skills and loving every minute of it. "It was so good to see the children unplug and enjoy what the great outdoors has to offer," said Patty Foster, owner of Extreme Outdoors, LLC.

The children learned skills in Archery, Self Defense for Children, Camping 101, Beekeeping, Air Guns, Outdoor Crafts, Fishing and Kayaking. Smokey The Bear, of FL Forestry Service and NRA's Eddie Eagle, made appearances to talk to the kids during the lunch hour about fire safety and gun safety. The event sold out in 3 days, with a waiting list of several

children. Extreme Outdoors plans to host another children's event in the late summer/early fall of 2021.

Also, Extreme Outdoors is holding a raffle fundraiser of a Barnett Blackcat Recurve Bow. The bow is a \$285 value on Ebay. The fundraiser is to raise money to purchase equipment (archery, kayaks, ground blinds, BB guns, camping gear, etc.) needed to host events like this and others. The Bow will be on display at the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan for 2 weeks. Tickets are: \$10 each; or 3 tickets for \$25.

Follow Extreme Outdoor Enterprises, LLC, on Facebook for upcoming event information.



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