

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 29

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Monday, February 20

"BUT HE SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." THEREFORE I WILL BOAST ALL THE MORE GLADLY ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT CHRIST'S POWER MAY REST ON ME." - 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Friends of NRA Event Coming in March



The Nassau County Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association) is coming to Hilliard Saturday, March 11, 2023. The event will be held at Camp Sorensen, CR 121 in Hilliard. This is the 2nd Annual event. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 5 p.m.

What is Friends of NRA? It is a program of the NRA Foundation. We are a non-political 501 charity. We raise funds by hosting these events. Before covid, we hosted 1100 annual events across the United States.

Where does the money go? Well, that's a great question! Funds are distributed to LOCAL organizations through a grant process. Friends of NRA supports public safety, ranges and improvements, shooting sports and education. You can read more about this at the website www.friendsofnra.com/ grants.

We are also hosting a pre-event raffle? The cost per ticket is \$20. WINNER TAKES ALL in this raffle. The winner of the raffle will receive: a Henry Lever Action 22, a Savage 110 Engage Hunter .308 WI, a Weatherby synthetic 12 gauge 28" and a Centurion 24" "Loaded" fireproof gun safe (the safe is valued at \$2,149.00). The drawing will be held at the event and the winner does not have to be present to win. Raffle tickets, \$20 each, are available for purchase now at: the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan; R & R Wings, Hilliard; and First Coast Pawn & More, Callahan.

different levels of tables available for the night of the event. Each table seats 8 people. The tables are named Liberty, Patriot, Table of the Year and Freedom Tables. On our information sheet it shows what guns are available when you purchase these tables. The more expensive the table, the

higher the value of the gun you will receive. For table purchases call Shelia, 838-0677 or Karen, 903-9552.

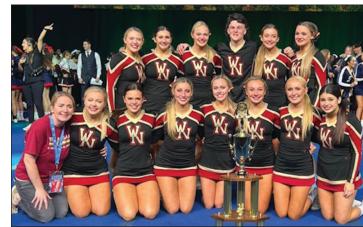
What can I expect at this event? When you arrive, you will be amazed at the number of firearms available. We will have games, raffles, a silent auction and a ladies table. If you purchase a table, you will receive a fun pack which includes funny money that can be used to play games. All game prizes are guns. There is also a wall of guns – If you win this game, you can choose which gun you want from the selection posted. There are handguns, rifles and shot guns on this wall. The choice will be yours if you are a lucky winner! There will also be raffle tickets available for sale the night of the event. All raffle prizes are guns!

The ladies table will have items especially for the lady of the house as well as a lady's handgun as the main prize. You can purchase a rose for her, and you will receive a ticket to win one of the prizes on the table. The grand prize will be a firearm just for her.

Attendees will enjoy dinner and listen to a guest speaker. The evening concludes with a live auction and winners are chosen from the games, raffles, and silent auction. These events are volunteer-run and managed at the local level with NRA support staff oversight.

If you have any questions, or would like to purchase a table for the event, call Shelia, 838-0677 or Karen, 903-

WN Cheerleaders Win it All!



Traditional Team: Payton Blackburn Kaylee Crews Payton Davis Kendall Driggers Kyra Foures Madison Green Austin Johnson Makenna Jones Madison Myers Peyton Platt Amelya Smith Chloe Womack Kylee Womack

Game Day Team: **Kaylee Areal Railey Barron Ella Batrous Payton Blackburn Kaylee Crews Payton Davis Kendall Driggers Kyra Foures Madison Green Austin Johnson Makenna Jones Carlos Lauzurique Madison Myers Peyton Platt Amelya Smith Connor Vilett Chloe Womack Kylee Womack**

The West Nassau High School Varsity Cheerleaders have once again represented their school well, becoming 2023 State, National (x2) and World Champions.

On February 3, the team competed in the FHSAA State Cheerleading Championship at the University of Florida in the Small Varsity Non-Tumbling division taking home first place. This is their 12th State Championship since 2011 and they now tie Bishop Moore Catholic School (Orlando) for the most state championships. In addition to winning their division, they had the highest score of the entire day with a 94.1.

On Friday, February 10, the team took on the ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando to win a National Title. In the Small Varsity Co-ed Game Day Division preliminary round, the team finished first, allowing them to bypass the semifinal



February 12. Out of the 38 teams in this division, the Game Day team won first! After finishing 2nd in 2022, this is Varsity's first ever Game Day National title.

On Saturday, February 11, the Small Varsity Co-ed Non-Tumbling team competed in the semi-finals for Nationals. Finishing in first place, they went on to the final round on Sunday to become National Champions in their division for the 5th year in a row.

Also on Sunday, the Small Varsity Non Tumbling team competed in the World School Cheerleading Championship. They competed against a team from Canada and another American team, coming in first and taking home the title of World Champions for the 4th time in 5 years. The Warrior Cheerleaders are coached by Samantha Beazley.

Buy a table, get a gun! We have 95

9552. Make plans to attend now!

round and go straight to Finals on Sunday,

Congratulations Warriors!



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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.

Listen up, America!

Dear Editor,

Listen up, America! This is what God is saying! Listen, oh foolish, senseless people; you with the eyes that do not see and the ears that do not listen. Have you no respect at all for me. How can it be that you don't even acknowledge My presence? I set the shorelines of the world by perpetual laws, so that the oceans, though they toss and roar, cannot pass these bounds. Isn't such a God to be reverenced and worshiped? Also as long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvesting, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.

So why all the garbage about global warming? Look at the money being wasted on such foolish nonsense. I Corinthians 6:9-10 says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

But wait, there is good news for you: Accept Jesus Christ and be eternally saved. The Bible says in I Corinthians 6:11, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.'

There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins are washed away and you are set apart for God. And He has accepted you because of what the Lord Jesus did on the cross of Calvary.

So why break the laws of God and His commandments so that we cannot prosper as individuals or as a nation. This is not just my

In the Kitchen...

1 (8 or 9 oz.) lg. Cool Whip

1 can condensed milk

1 can cherry pie filling

opinion, it's what the Bible says! I believe it and that settles it!

> In Jesus' Name, Jack Lewis

Failing Country Dear Editor,

Stephen Potter, who wrote "The Complete Upmanship," created a character he called "The Lawrence Man." He spoke in polysyllabic, theoretical hogwash and complicated terms that made what he said totally incomprehensible. The other characters thought there was something deficient about them and attributed him to be a genius.

Americans' Lawrence man, Jerome Powell, is the current chair of the Federal Reserve, responsible for setting interest rates for lending institutions. To cover up his inability to effect the inflation ravishing our country, Powell keeps raising rates seeking the perfect number. Now at 8% and climbing, he is drowning in theory and without regard for mortgagees who are suffering mightily, struggling to keep their homes.

Most of Biden's administrators are at the behest of a police for the country that is NOT working because it totally dismisses the needs of the people. Our institutions, like the F.B.I., the Department of Justice, the I.R.S. and now the Fed are being politicized to serve the whim of the Executive Branch.

2024 Elections are in sight. If the Republicans don't make a clean sweep, we may not recover, that is if it's not already too late. Plan B? The Italian or French countryside sounds good.

Cherry Salad

1 lg. can crushed pineapple

ATV, UTV & Side-by-Side

Accessories

Wheels

Stir together Cool Whip and condnesed milk. Add cherry pie filling and stir. Then

1 can mandarin oranges, drained

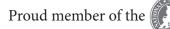
B.R. McConnell



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

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

WESTSIDE IOURNAL STAFF Dawn West Publisher

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JUST MY OPINION

NCCOA Announces 2023 Board of Directors

Ken Saitow, Chair, Nassau County Council on Aging (NCCOA) Board of Directors, is pleased to present the 2023 Executive Committee and new appointments to the organization's board. Executive Committee officers include: Ken Saitow, Chair; Karen Hackett, Vice Chair; Christina Bryan, Secretary; Jerry Mathe, Treasurer; and Geoff Clear, Immediate Past Chair. Two new members have been appointed to the Board and they are Keith Meyer and Pedro Tamavo IV.

Keith Meyer is the Global Practice Leader of the CEO and Board Practice and Co-Leader of the Leadership Practice for Allegis Partners, a global executive search firm specializing in identifying diverse, top talent for boards, C-suite and human resources roles. Meyer is a longstanding champion of boardroom diversity and is the co-founder and President of the Directors Academy, a national notfor-profit focused on accelerating the next generation of diverse directors. Meyer has more than 20 years of global experience developing high-performing boards and senior leadership teams for Fortune 500, mid-cap and not-for-profit

Spreading Valentine Wishes!

Joel Pace's students and Be the Change visited Jax Nursing and Rehab and gave out Valentines to the residents! All are welcome to join at the nursing home on the first, second and fourth Fridays of each month. Visit the Facebook page for updates: facebook.com/joelpacepiano.



Keith Meyer Pedro Tamavo organizations. He began his consulting career with McKinsey & Company and has prior management experience at PepsiCo and ExxonMobil.

Pedro Luis Tamayo IV, MD, is the Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI) Specialist at Baptist Health System. In this capacity, Dr. Tamayo works closely with other physicians to optimize hospital clinical documentation for completeness and compliance with regulations. He has 10 years of operational management and diversified healthcare industry work experience, as well as 10 years of medical management/ supervisory experience in hospital and clinic environments. Dr. Tamayo has extensive clinical experience in the United States, Cayman Islands and Dominica, and is bilingual in English and Spanish.



EVENTS AROUND

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold their monthly meeting Mon., Feb. 20, at the Pig Barbeque in Callahan at 7 pm. If you are interested in the history between 1861-1865, you are invited to attend. By opening your heart and home to a youth in Foster Care, you can help forge a lifetime of success and happiness for a child right here in Nassau. Are you ready to learn more? Contact recruiter@fssnf. org or 904-421-5864 for information.





Roger R. West

This may make some people angry and most will shrug it off as me being too cynical, but what the heck, that's never stopped me from voicing my opinion in the past, so why start now. It seems that most all the social media comments this morning (Monday) have been directed at the Super Bowl halftime show. First off, I didn't watch any of the Super Bowl or the halftime show so I can't comment personally on the performance of the players or the halftime show featuring Rihanna. As a matter of fact. I don't even know who Rihanna is.

My beef isn't what occurred in Arizona, my beef is all the ones complaining about the lack of decent halftime shows during the Super Bowls. The type of shows presented lies solely on the backs of the ones watching! So why were you watching? If one wants change, then there has to be action displayed to instigate a change. When will people realize that sitting on their couch complaining will never ever initiate change? By just sitting there watching, you are showing support to this type of entertainment. The big woke corporations funding these venues don't know nor do they care about vour feelings. All they go by is viewer participation. If you are watching it then they just won your approval. It's all about perception of numbers, which correlates to income for them.

This seems to be an action or perhaps inaction of the American populous in many different arenas. We as Americans have mastered the art of complaining and have miserably failed at realizing we can change things. The problem lies with the fact that we complain because

it is easy to do, no effort exhausted at all. To affect change, we have to deny ourselves of the comfort and likes we want to hold on to. If everyone who dislikes the halftime shows would not have watched the program, the investors would be scrambling today to figure out why they spent millions of dollars for such dismal audience participation. Take away their money and they will change their ways.

The same way with all these woke companies that want to force their evil doctrine upon us all, quit buying their products and they too will change. Prime example is Disney World. They are so set on promoting the homosexual and transgender agenda, yet people that detest these agendas still flock to Disney every day. Stop rewarding them financially and things will change. Stop drinking Coca-Cola products and things will change. Of course, there lies the problem! In order to initiate change, we have to inconvenience ourselves and we are so spoiled with the things we like that there is no way we will change our pleasures. With that mind set, nothing will ever change for the good, but our lack of drive and our personal desire for the wants of material things will most definitely ensure the evil will continue and get worse.

Wake up America! Our future is in our control but only if you want it and are willing to step out of the "my" world and stand together and fight. A temporary inconvenience is a lot better than the permanent inconvenience that we will have if we keep sitting on the couch.

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



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All Coverage Insurance Solutions, Tina Haddock of Mav Realty and Jeannie Phanhthourath, Your Local Mortgage Professional are hosting a fair and seminar to teach you how to navigate the process to make your home buying experience easier!

Saturday, March 4th from 2 - 6 p.m. at Sweet as Cyn Coffee House 542432 US Hwy. 1 • Callahan

Food Trucks: Groovy Grillers & More, Susie's Sugar Shoppe, That Coffee Chic and more!

Free Home Buyer's Class at 3 p.m. Ask all your questions! Free Raffle Tickets for all who attend the class! Animal Services will be joining us with eligible pets looking for their loving homes!

Food Trucks interested in attending should call Sweet as Cyn at 904-879-6698.

How Do We Find the Strength?

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



Here we are, a few weeks into the new year. For most of us, this is about the time when our new year's resolutions start to falter. It is hard to intentionally turn an idea into a routine behavior. Most psychologists believe that it takes somewhere around forty days to establish new behaviors. As I thought about this, the first question that came to mind was obvious. Why is it so hard to establish new habits? Yet, the question that followed was not as obvious. Why is it so hard to establish beneficial habits?

Think about this for a minute. What is harder, making sure that we eating vegetables every day, or making sure we get a bowl of ice cream every day? I am not telling you that ice cream is the enemy. What I am saying is it is far too easy to establish undisciplined habits. Think about it. Why are some things so easy, and some things so hard?

We are not the first people to ask ourselves this. In Romans 7:15-20, the apostle Paul is wrestling with the same questions. Why do I do what I should not do? Why do I not do the things I should do? Paul is wrestling with his own sin nature. The simple truth is that we are fallen people that live in a fallen world. There is also no escaping the fact that we are a consumer culture that want instant gratification of our desires no matter the future cost this may bring. These sinful desires and habits drive us to distraction and often ruin.

What do we do about this as individuals and as a society? The apostle Paul asks the same question in Romans 7:24. Scripture reads, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Paul's answer can be our answer too. Romans 7:25 reads, "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Jesus Christ is the answer. When we invite Jesus into our heart it is no longer us fighting temptation on our own. Christ's Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us, strengthening our spirit to help us through these hard times and decisions. Does this mean that once the Holy Spirit is living inside us we are immune to temptation and sin. No, we are still living in this fallen world. We are still subject to sinful desires. What it does mean is that we are never alone, and we will always be forgiven. Yes, the Holy Spirit will also be with us when we do falter. As hard as this is to hear, there will be times when we will give into our sinful desires.

As we move forward into this new year, let us look to Christ. He is the source of strength we need. Let us ask Him to come into our hearts, to be Lord of our life. Jesus will walk through the valley and dark times with us. Jesus will always forgive us of our sins, and He will always love us. Make the decision to follow Him today.

JRCH NEWS

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH will be selling Spaghetti Dinners Friday, Feb. 17 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. Eat-in or Take-out! The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.



New Ministry for Widows

Hilliard First Assembly of God, located on US 1 South in Hilliard, will begin ministering to widows of the church and community on Friday, February 24. The ministry will be called "A Widows Might." They invite all widows to come and join them on Friday, February 24 at 5 p.m. at the church. The first meeting will be a cookie/dessert social with a short devotion. Please RSVP to Lisa at 904-716-7925.



Pinewood Derby Held!

Cub Scout Pack 351 held their annual Pinewood Derby Races and first communitywide races recently at the First United Methodist Church of Callahan. The winners were: David Thrift, Best in Show; Colt Pickett, 3rd Place; Nathan Davis, 2nd Place; and Tristen Williams 1st Place! Zach Mangold earned Best in Show for his community entry.

Pack 351 would like to thank the First United Methodist Church for their support as well as all the members of the community that participated in this event.











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Harris Joins OREMC Hilliard Crew

Rodney Harris debated being a truck driver or an electrical lineworker. His father was a lineman, and his grandfather a foreman, both of whom worked for Sumter Utilities. They wanted Harris to go into the military, but he instead decided to follow in their footsteps and is Okefenoke REMC's newest

lineman working out of the Hilliard office.

Born and raised in Brantley County, Harris says he was not unfamiliar with OREMC, knew it was a good place to work and close to home. Prior to joining OREMC, Harris previously worked for electrical contractors Sumter Utilities and PIKE Electric. While at PIKE he was assigned to the crew working in tandem with the co-op's Hilliard crew,



so he also knew some of the guys. "While working with PIKE, Rodney gained familiarity with our system, practices and members," notes OREMC Operations Manager Travis Page. "Combined with his work experience there and with Sumter Utilities, he was a good candidate for our

apprentice program and fit in well with our guys in Hillard."

The combination of working outside, the people he works with and being close to home, make his job at OREMC a perfect fit for Harris-especially since his family recently grew by two with the birth of twin boys, joining two older brothers. As he notes, "I got to be where I wanted."

Hilliard Library to Hold Black History Month Read-In



The Hilliard Library will hold a Read-in, in observance of Black History Month. The read-in will be held Thursday. February 23 at 6 p.m. Come join us as Rev. Johnnie Green leads us in reading poetry and other selections by African American authors.









Take Stock in Children Recognizes Mentors of the Year



WNHS Senior Jeremiah Peterson with his mentor, Lawrence Fisher



Mary Trino with her FBHS student, Fernanda Rodriguez

Take Stock in Children of Nassau congratulates Lynn Dempsey, Lawrence Fisher, Peggy Hamrick, David Schulte and Mary Trino for being awarded "Mentor of the Year." The prestigious honor is given every year to mentors who have gone above and beyond with their student: exceeding expected mentoring sessions, attending all of the workshops, and being a great support for their student.

Lynn Dempsey has been matched with Yulee High senior, Tristny Ta, since Ta was an 8th grader. Lynn and Tristny hit it off immediately. They both have big smiles when they meet. Lynn has an extensive background in etiquette and has shared these tips and secrets with Tristny through every holiday, even setting up a table for them to celebrate. Lynn has attended many school events where Tristny was performing or being recognized. As they moved into their 5th year, Lynn is excited to see Tristny applying to her dream colleges and universities and help her plan and prepare for her future.

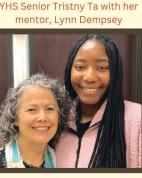






Lawrence Fisher has been matched with West Nassau senior, Jeremiah Peterson, since Peterson began 9th grade. Lawrence lives on Amelia Island and commutes to Callahan to be there for Jeremiah. Lawrence lights up when he talks about Jeremiah's future, and he advocates for Jeremiah getting into the school of his dreams. Lawrence supports Jeremiah by attending football games to see him perform in the marching band and concerts to hear him play.

Peggy Hamrick has been matched with Hilliard senior, Ashazi Scott, since Ashazi began 9th grade. In addition to their weekly meetings on campus, two years ago Peggy and Ashazi enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters so they could spend time together outside of the school setting. They have a bond like no other. Peggy is there for all of the special moments, like Ashazi's homecoming. Recently, Peggy encouraged and helped connect Ashazi to working as a pharmacy tech at Publix to help prepare Ashazi for her dream of being a



HMSMS mentor Peggy Hamrick with her student, Ashazi Scott

Puppy Love at NCSO

Love was in the air between two of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office tracking bloodhounds, Raven and Ol' Red. They are the proud parents of 11 beautiful pups. These puppies are currently 5 weeks old. NCSO is excited to be keeping two pups to serve the citizens of Nassau County by going through tracking training like their parents did. They will be donating the others to agencies around the state of Florida and beyond at



Sheriff and Police Departments to also become tracking K9s.

Both parents, Ol' Red and Raven, have had multiple finds; most recently Ol' Red found a suspect who stole a trailer. K9 Red tracked him and found him on top of a shipping container. We can't wait to see what these puppies can do for Nassau County and other agencies!

pharmacist. Peggy has been instrumental in helping Ashazi apply for other scholarship opportunities to help cover other expenses for school.

Dave Schulte has been matched with Fernandina Beach senior, Andre Lucas, since Andre was an 8th grader. Like Peggy and Ashazi, Dave and Andre enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters too. Last year, Andre moved to Jacksonville, and Dave followed him to continue being his mentor. Dave is dedicated to Andre's success, cheering him from the stands every Friday night for football and attending his basketball games. Dave seeks out opportunities to help Andre make his college dreams come true, even finding athletic contacts to help him get noticed by football recruiters. He has been Andre's biggest cheerleader the last five years!

Mary Trino has also been matched with Fernandina Beach senior, Fernanda Rodriguez, since Fernanda was an 8th grader. Fernanda and Mary have a special relationship, and share a deep bond. Fernanda is a talented artist, and Mary attends any art show where Fernanda is being showcased. Fernanda says her favorite Take Stock moment was the day she met Mary, and because of her, "I learned how to love myself unconditionally by acknowledging my strengths and knowing that I can feel good about myself without feeling arrogant or overconfident."

Take Stock in Children of Nassau (TSICN) has provided mentors and scholarships to academically promising students since 1997. The program begins in middle school, continues through high school, and supports students in college and career. Through public and private donations, Take Stock helps students achieve their dreams for a better future. If you are interested in becoming a mentor to a Take Stock Scholar, please contact the office at (904) 432-8584. Celebrate Take Stock Nassau's students and mentors by attending the annual "Light Up a Life Gala" on March 9, 2023 at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. More information is available on the website: www.takestocknassau.org.



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 - First Baptist Church Hilliard
 - First Baptist Church of Boulogne First Baptist Church of Bryceville First Federal Bank

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 - Grand Bluff II Neighborhood Greater Mt. Pleasant Church
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 - **Harris** Teeter

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 - Department
 - eract Club Yulee High School

 - Island Hop Isle de Mai Neighborhood Jersey Mike's Subs Joanne Blalock/Joel Embry

 - Journey Church
 - Keep Nassau Beautiful
 - Key Club
 - Knights of Columbus Kraft Athletic Club

 - Lakeside of Amelia

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- Martha Wilson
 - Memorial United Methodist Church
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- Nassau County Extension Nassau County School Board
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Women's Club

• Yulee High School

YMCA

- Rise Group Robin Jones Rotary Club of Amelia Island Sunrise
- Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach RYAM

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Anchor Church of God

West Nassau High School

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island
Town of Callahan

West Nassau Historical Society

Winn-Dixie - Callahan Winn-Dixie - Fernandina Beach

Mrs. Emma Jean Self

Celebrates 90th Birthday

New Beginnings and Milestones

Ms. Nellie Smith Celebrates 92nd Birthday



Ms. Nellie Smith, of Callahan, celebrated her 92nd birthday Friday, February 10. She was born February 10, 1930. After she enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Cracker Barrel with her five daughters, she attended the Callahan First Baptist Church Senior Valentine's Party with her date and special friend Austin Norris. Ms. Nellie is one of the sweetest, special ladies around. There is not a time that she will not greet you with a smile! Wishing this sweet lady many more happy birthdays!

Ms. Nellie has six children: Jean Sears of Callahan, Susan and Jim King of Georgia, Mary Ellen and Tony Perez of Callahan, Sharon and Cecil Dixon of Jacksonville, Randall and Liz Smith of Fort White and Nancy Sands of Callahan.

Cecelia Laura Douglas

Jonathan and Amanda Douglas, of Yulee, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Cecelia Laura Douglas. Cecelia was born January 26 at 7:47 p.m. at UF Health North in Jacksonville. She weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Brian and Karen Smith of Palm Coast. Maternal grandparents are Bruce and Christine Burns of Bryceville.

Proud great-grandparents are Arielle and Fred Smith of Hilliard.

Cecelia was welcomed home by her big sisters Victoria and Isabella!

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Emma Jean Self, of Callahan, celebrated her 90th birthday February 4. She was born February 4, 1933 in El Dorado, Arkansas. She was married to Sherrill Self for 55 years before his passing in 2008.

She was a homemaker but also worked at various times throughout her life: office clerk and secretary at various businesses, substitute teacher and guidance counselor at Callahan Junior High. She

worked at A1A Dry Cleaners which she and Sherril owned for 5 years. She enjoys talking with family, friends, even strangers. She is a prayer warrior and many folks call upon her for prayer. Sherril and Emma Jean are founding members of what is now Crossroads Church, which just celebrated 50 years and she continues to be a faithful member there. Her life has ALWAYS been about serving and/or providing for others. She sincerely cares for people and where they'll spend eternity. She's one of the most unselfish people I know. One family calls her Granny Selfless. Actually, many people only know her as Granny.

She has three children Mike and Mary Self of Callahan, Phillip and Linda Self of Hilliard and Cheri and Ira Weiner of Callahan. She also has eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren!

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Barnabas @ NEFL Fairgrounds 543378 US Hwy. 1 • Callahan Monday, February 20 • 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gray Gables Baptist Church 54031 Church Rd. • Callahan Monday, February 27 • 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.





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CANTEBURY OF HILLIARD is accepting applications for 2BR apartment now available We are an Equal Housing Opportunity with Rental Assistance for Elderly (age 62+) Disabled or Handicapped (regardless of age) with or without children. RENT BASED ON INCOME. Applications available at all times outside of the office at: 37119 Cantebury Drive or call (904) 845-4496. TDD 1-800-374-4463, Monday Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. tfn

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VFW Announces State Winners

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the Department of V Florida has selected their State Winners. VFW Post 10095 in Hilliard is excited in exaggeration of their nominees' success. Gannon Kassab, Senior at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, won 5th Place in the State in the Florida's VFW Voice of Democracy competition. Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay.

This year's theme was "Why is the Veteran Important?" Each year, nearly 25,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded

through the program. Kassab was awarded a plaque and a scholarship.

Bryan Spencer, of Bryceville, a Yulee Middle School Social Science teacher was named Florida's Middle School Teacher of the Year (6-8 grade) under the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship

Education Teacher Award. Spencer will receive a plaque, monetary award and advance to VFW Nationals for national consideration

Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions, and



Gannon Kassab

the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America. Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle, and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/ Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. VFW Department of Florida is

proud to announce the 2023

Winners of the Teacher of

the Year. Abigail Clowers

from District 19 Post 3282,

of Port Orange, Florida's

Elementary Teacher of the

Year, Bryan Spencer from



Bryan Spencer

District 6, Post 10095, of Hilliard, Florida's Middle School Teacher of the Year, and Jeffrey Martin from District 17, Post 10069, of Port St. Joe, Florida's High School Teacher of the Year. Outstanding quality of teachers were submitted across the state. Thank you to all the posts in identifying and helping us honor our amazing teachers in Florida.







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RONALD LEWIS CARR



On Sunday, February 5, 2023, Ronald "Ronnie" Lewis Carr Sr., 68, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-

grandfather and friend, passed away. Ronnie was born on May 17, 1954, to Lewis Talmadge "Buddy" Carr and Betty Lou Pruett-Carr in Macon, Georgia.

Ronnie was a dedicated member of his church, Our Lady of Consolation, and was active in his local Knights of Columbus organization. He was a dedicated catholic who was always willing to help his church and community in need. He was a very faithful man with an eternal commitment to his relationship with God and his church. Ronnie was the designated patriarch of the family, leading with an unyielding amount of compassion and love, wrapped in a tough exterior.

His greatest memories were family reunions, fish fries and holidays, when his wife, children and ever-expansive family came together and celebrated in each other's company. He was an accomplished diesel mechanic with an unyielding work ethic. He was a very devoted person who saw value in the deep relationships he forged and would put others before himself and always with a smile.

He has left this world beloved by all who knew him. He will forever hold a sacred place in the heart of those he loved. He will forever be remembered in the lives of those he has departed. He will forever find his way into our thoughts, dreams, hopes and every milestone we reach in life, as he has set the foundation of a truly amazing and happy family. Finally, he will forever be remembered for that contagious laugh, which brought so much light into our world. Words cannot describe the void Ronnie has left, but we find peace knowing he has happily reunited with friends and family in heaven.

He was preceded in death by his parents Buddy and Betty; as well as his former wife

OBITUARIES

Loretta Carr (mother of his children Kristin, Ronald Jr., Matthew, Corinna and Naomi).

He is survived by his dedicated and loving wife, Lauren; children Kristin Roberts, Ronald Carr, Jr. (Bridget Baisden), Jamie (Anthony, Sr.) Manning, Matthew (Patricia) Carr, Corinna (Jason) McCormick, Naomi (Shaun) Griffin and Renee' (Jeremy) Balderson; brothers James Carr, Timothy Carr, Thomas Carr and Michael Carr; 16 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life service will be held at Our Lady of Consolation in late March.

ARETA RUIS HENSLEY

Mrs. Areta Ruis Hensley, 89, and a 70-year resident of Baldwin, passed away Monday, February 13, 2023. She was born in Foley, Florida to the late George W. and Myrtle Lee Bethea. She grew up in Callahan and was a 1951 graduate of Callahan High School. Mrs. Hensley was a long-time hairdresser, an excellent seamstress and cook, and an exceptional housekeeper. She enjoyed camping with friends and hosting family gatherings. She was an active member of her church and a fine example of a disciple of Christ. She had a servant's heart and always considered others before herself. Her love and devotion to her family and community was evident in that everyone affectionately knew her as "Mema."

She is survived by her sons John (Dottie) Ruis of Hilliard and Bruce (Tammy) Ruis of Ponte Vedra; daughter Jeanene Ruis (John) Miller of East Palatka; grandchildren Marci Dillard, Joanna (Jimmy) Thompson, Bryce (Lynsey) Ruis, Jay (Lindsey) Miller, John (Courtney) Miller Jr., Brent (Lacey) Ruis,

and B.J. (Stephanie) Ruis; and 14 greatgrandchildren.

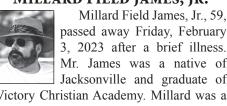
She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands: John W. "Jay" Ruis and Franklin Hensley; and brother Billy Bethea.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Friday, February 17 prior to the funeral service at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Baldwin with Pastor Chris Drum officiating. Interment will follow at Riverside Memorial Park, Jacksonville.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin is honored to serve the Ruis/Hensley family.

Please leave online condolences at www.warrenfuneralservices.com.

MILLARD FIELD JAMES, JR.



Mr. James was a native of Jacksonville and graduate of Victory Christian Academy. Millard was a friend to all, known for his quick wit and cheerful personality. He was preceded in death by his father Millard F. James, Sr.

He is survived by his wife Rhonda James; mother Alberta James; two sisters Arlene (Tony) Skinner and Edith (Everett) Conaway; nephews Tony and Dan Skinner and James and Everett Conaway; nieces Angela Conaway Rochay and Krista King; and along with extended family and friends.

A memorial service was held Thursday, February 9 at the Event Center at Peeples, 14165 N. Main Street (Building C) with Rev. Harry Conaway officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Peeples Family Funeral Home is serving the James Family.

GEORGE "BO" MCKENZIE, JR.



George "Bo" Clarence McKenzie, Jr., 69, of Hilliard, passed away February 8, 2023. He was born May 20, 1953, in Jacksonville, to the late George

Clarence McKenzie, Sr. and Virginia Miller McKenzie.

George was an entrepreneur for many years. He successfully built a commercial coating business and catering business among other endeavors. When he wasn't busy working, he enjoyed being outdoors with mowing grass as one of his favorite chores. His free spirit made him lovable and fun and will be missed by all those who knew him. More than anything he loved spending time with his family especially his grandchildren.

George leaves behind his loving wife of 39 years, Annette McKenzie; daughter Angela McKenzie TenBroeck, Amanda (Carl) Harms and Rickie (Marvin) Sullins; son Allen (Taylor) Martin; brother Levi "Butch" McKenzie; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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

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

PATRICIA ELAINE ORTIZ



Patricia "Patty" Elaine Ortiz, 51, passed away peacefully Monday, January 30, 2023 in her home. She was born September 25, 1971, in

Jacksonville, to James and Mary Moore Terrell. Patty was most happy being around her family and friends enjoying their time together. She was the life of the party and lit up any room that she walked in to. Patty was a loving wife, mother, sister and friend. She was loved by all and will be missed dearly. To know Patty was to love Patty. She was preceded in death by her parents; and







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Patty leaves behind her husband, George Ortiz; children Jeffrey Rogers and Cynthia Rogers; brother Lelmon Jackson Terrell; sisters Catherine Penny and Wanda Garza; and several extended family and friends; and fur babies Violet, Pebbles, Lil Girl and Felix, who she loved dearly.

A celebration of Patty's life will be held Saturday, February 18 at 12 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Ken Barney officiating.

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

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

NANCY RIELLI



Nancy Rielli, 70, also known as "Nana," passed away Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at UF Health Jacksonville. She was born November 15, 1952

in Anniston, Alabama. Nancy had many travels throughout her life, even living in Mexico for a brief period of time. She went to both Italy and Hawaii on vacation with her husband and went on what she liked to call "adventures" with her only daughter. Nancy had many hobbies during her lifetime. She enjoyed playing all kinds of games and especially loved playing with her grandson. Nancy was an amazing artist who could draw and paint just about anything. She not only loved to cook but she was good at it and liked to read. Two of her favorite authors were James Patterson and Stephen King.

She enjoyed going to the beach or being by the water in general and she even owned a sailboat for a period of time. She loved to look for and collect "treasures" with her grandson on beach trips. Nancy also had a big love for animals and was very passionate about her plants as she had a very "green thumb." She loved being outside. Whether it was working in her garden with her husband or just sitting on her porch watching the birds or talking with loved ones. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a smile and laugh that could light up a room. She had one of the kindest, honest, most loving souls and always put others before herself. She loved her family with her whole heart. She took wonderful care of her husband of 27 years and her daughter and best friend, who meant the world to her. She had a heart of gold and left an amazing

OBITUARIES

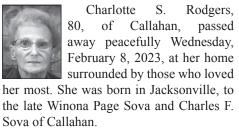
mark on this world and to the people who had the pleasure of being a part of her life. She will be deeply missed by many, but she will never be forgotten. Her memory will live on for eternity.

Nancy is preceded in death by her mother Dorothy Venton; father John Duke; brother James Venton; and sister Laura Campbell.

Nancy is survived by her daughter Rachel Schreech of Callahan; husband Dominick Rielli; grandson Colton Judson; stepchildren Rick, John, Jennifer and Falecia; sisters Barbara Gooden and Linda Opfer; and her fur babies Peanut, Chloe and Little Bit.

A celebration of life will be held in Nancy's honor Saturday, February 25 at 12 p.m. at The Church of Eleven22, 317 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park.

CHARLOTTE S. RODGERS



Charlotte was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Callahan. She was a retired teacher of Duval and Nassau Counties. Charlotte loved shopping, knitting, cooking, baking, reading and watching Days of Our Lives. She lived an active life, until recently and could often be seen running errands around town for herself and others and at her bi-weekly trips to the beauty shop. She was generous with her talents. Charlotte enjoyed knitting baby shawls and delivering her famous banana nut cake and other baked goods. She was happiest when in the company of friends and family. She most recently enjoyed a trip to the Blueridge Mountains with her son and family.

Charlotte was cared for at home by her family and a very special caregiver, Mary Jones. We find comfort in knowing that she is resting in the arms of our Lord and Savior. She was preceded in death by the love of her life Herbert (Jake) Rodgers;



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NOTICE FOR BIDS TOWN OF HILLIARD brother Charles G. Sova; and step-son Jeffrey Rodgers.

Charlotte is survived by her son Matthew (Cindy) Rodgers; grandson Alex J. Rodgers; sister Carolyn S. (Bryant) Carter; step-children Joseph (Lisa) Rodgers, Cynthia Guinn and John Rodgers; step-grandchildren Thomas (Renee) Bell, Jacob Bell, Sarah Spurlock, Jami (Kenneth) Brandt and Joshua Rodgers; and numerous step-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Charlotte's life was held Monday, February 13, 2023 at the First United Methodist Church with Pastor Bodie Riddle officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

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

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

JASON ALLEN WILLIAMS

Jason Allen Williams, 45, of Hilliard, passed away on February 8, 2023. He was born on June 22, 1977, in Jacksonville.

Jason was employed at Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation as a Crew Foreman. He took pride in his work and was very passionate about his career. Jason thought highly of his coworkers and they were more like family. He had a huge heart and would give you the shirt off his back if you were in need. Jason was an outdoorsman to say the least. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, off-roading, riding motorcycles, woodwork and was known as a "master of a chain saw." Jason also enjoyed Saturday morning breakfasts with Aunt Meg. More than anything, Jason loved and adored his family. They were truly his world. Jason was a loving husband, father and the best PawPaw ever. Words cannot describe how much Jason will be missed and how his memories will be treasured forever. He was preceded in death by his mother Carolyn Stallings; uncles Lou Brantley, Charles Brantley and Harris Brantley; and his aunt Christine Lewis.

Jason leaves behind his loving wife of 14 years, Penny Peacock Williams; children Nicholas Williams (Jensen Armstrong), Kaleb Williams, Micheal (Lindsay) Henderson and Megan (Bryan) Lloyd; sisters Jamie (David) Stallings, Jennifer (Karl) Ricketts and Shelley (Eric) Huffman; aunts Margaret Bottoni and Barbara Stroud; grandchildren Karson Henderson, Karter Henderson, Raelyn Lloyd, Walker Henderson and Brooks Lloyd.

Pallbearers were Randy Thomas, David Allbriton, Tim Beard, Marcus Skelton, RA Sikes, Adam Dyal, Roger Sloan, Jimmy Fredericks and David Smith.

A celebration of Jason's life was held Wednesday, February 15 at River Road Baptist Church with Pastor James Conner officiating. Interment followed at River Road Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, February 14 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

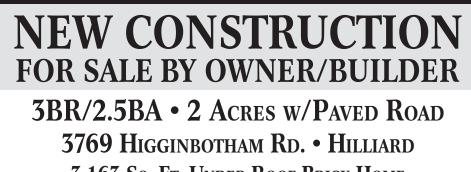
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RIGHT-OF-WAY MOWING CONTRACT TOWN OF HILLIARD, FLORIDA

The Town of Hilliard is soliciting bids from landscape/mowing contractors to maintain the Town's right-of-ways for three (3) years. The first mow cycle will begin on April 10, 2023 and end on the last mow cycle in the year 2025. Sealed bids shall be received at the office of the Town Clerk at 15859 County Road 108, Hilliard, Florida 32046-6712 by 2 pm local time on February 23, 2023, at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids will be received for a single prime contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form. The issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is the Town of Hilliard, 15859 CR 108, Hilliard, Florida 32046-6712, (904) 845-3555. Prospective Bidders may examine the documents at the issuing office, Monday through Friday (excluding Holidays) and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents free of charge from the issuing office. Owner shall not be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the issuing Office.

The Town of Hilliard is an equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes bids from MBEA/VBE contractors.

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AIBF ANNOUNCES THE 2023 Amelia Island Book Festival



Amelia Island

BOOK FESTIVAL

David Baldacci

The 2023 Amelia Island Book Festival is pleased to be kicking off the Annual Festival in February with our February 17th signature Authors in School (AIS) program. New-York Times Best-Selling and local/regional award-winning authors visit schools across Nassau County. The AIS program aims to put a book in the hands of every student. Through event ticket sales and the generosity of sponsors, donors, and members, AIBF purchases books for each of these students! This year, over 9,000 books were purchased, delivered and will be presented by our AIS authors.

Friday, February 17, is the iconic AIBF Celebrity Author Gala held at The Ritz Carlton Amelia Island. Our New York Times best-selling celebrity authors this year are David Baldacci. Kate Quinn, Scott Turow and Jeannette Walls. The evening will commence with a cocktail reception, followed by a seated dinner with a Live Auction.

Featured author, Scott Turow, will lead us through Discussion а Q&A; and and will complete

the evening with a celebrity Book Signing. The Gala will be emceed by Nassau County business leader Jackson Selvidge. To purchase tickets for the Gala, visit: www. ameliaislandbookfestival.org/gala. All proceeds directly benefit our Authors in School Literacy program.

To wrap up the 2023 Amelia Island Book Festival, our Authors' Expo and Readers' Extravaganza will take place on Saturday, February 18 at Fernandina Beach Middle School. This is a free event to our community and the most prominent way for authors to take part in our Festival. During the Expo, there will be opportunities to engage with

authors in an up-close and personal way while authors showcase and sell their books. Multiple activities for children and adults, including Celebrity Author breakout presentations and book signings, and a Kids Zone will keep attendees and their families engaged and circulating around the exhibits throughout the day. For more information, or to pre-register for specific Expo sessions, visit: www. ameliaislandbookfestival.org/authorexpo.

UTOW

Pandemic restrictions have curtailed the festival for the past two years. "We are working hard to make 2023 a banner year for the festival," says Paige Foery, President of the Amelia Island Book Festival. "The AIBF Gala offers an up close and intimate experience with Best Selling Authors and the opportunity to support literacy for Nassau County Students. The Saturday Expo is a celebration of all things literary. There is something new, interesting, and

> exciting everyone!"

The Amelia Book Island Festival's mission is to promote

for

lifelong learning for people of all ages within Nassau County. We nurture an appreciation for literacy by providing quality events featuring local and New York Times Best Selling Authors, essay contests, scholarships and much more! For more information on the 2023 Amelia Island Book Festival, visit: www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org.

McCosh Places First in Audition

West Nassau High School sophomore, Kanaan McCosh, auditioned for the National Association of Teachers of Singing at the University of North Florida on Saturday, February 4 among youth and adult singers throughout northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. He was awarded first place in Musical Theatre (9-10 grade) where he sang "Evermore" from Beauty and the Beast, "Tonight at 8" from She Loves Me, and "Don't Let Me Go" from Shrek the Musical. He was also awarded second place for Classical Voice in his division by singing "Widmung" by Robert Schumann, "Nina" from Giovanni Paisiell's opera by the



same name and "Where the Music Comes From" by Lee Hoiby. Kanaan will now advance to the Southeastern Regionals to be hosted at Florida State University in March. Kanaan has been taking voice lessons from The Friese Studio of Music in St. Marys for 5 years. NATS offers performance opportunities to vocal students and teachers across the country including monetary awards, scholarships, grants and fellowships, as well as opportunities for students to be seen and recruited by colleges seeking to increase their talent pool.



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