

“REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.” - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Communities Honor Fallen Soldier, Sergeant Kennedy Sanders



On Wednesday, February 14, a day set aside for love, the communities of Hilliard and Callahan came out to show respect for the ultimate gift of love. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13. Specialist Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24 years old of Waycross, Georgia, was one of the soldiers killed January 28 in a drone attack on her base in Jordan. She served with the 718th Engineer Company, the 926th Engineer Battalion and the 926th Engineer Brigade out of Fort Moore, Georgia.

The body of Sanders, who was posthumously promoted to Sergeant, was returned home on Wednesday. Streets from Jacksonville International Airport to Waycross, Georgia were lined with American flags and purple ribbons (Sanders’ favorite color) to honor the fallen soldier. Sgt. Sanders



was laid to rest Saturday, February 17 at Oakland Cemetery in Waycross.

Sergeant Sanders’ service to our our nation will never be forgotten. As she made her final journey home, it was humbling to see the eternal gratitude and prayers displayed by our communities.



Rodney Mills to be Honored at July 4th Fireworks

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final meeting of February. The council was surprised by a visit from Callahan resident and businessman, Paul Schwend. Paul addressed the council introducing his friend Mr. Rodney Mills. “For those that don’t know, Rodney is like the Godfather of southern rock music. He has been a music mastering engineer for many years,” said Paul. “He has been in the music industry for over 50 years and has earned over 50 gold and platinum records for engineering,



mastering and producing. He has worked with artists Lynyrd Skynyrd, Atlanta Rhythm Section, 38 Special,

The Doobie Brothers and more. Many of bands performing at the July 4th Fireworks event will be playing some of the songs from these artists to honor Rodney!”

“I grew up on a farm in South Georgia and I listened to a radio all the time,” said Rodney. “My mother used to get on to me to turn that radio off, but I didn’t. Those times led to a career in music for

me. Thank you for the honor to be here tonight.”

The next presentation was from Sherri Mitchell representing the Nassau County Economic Development Board. Mitchell had a power point presentation to update the council concerning the NCEDB. “Nassau County has now grown to 96,071 residents. We are focusing on bringing new industry to Nassau County however we are striving to work with our current businesses to keep them here,” said Mitchell. “We’re still working hard to bring people to the

See ‘Hilliard Town’ on page 2

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Hilliard Town

Crawford Diamond project in Callahan off of US 301. The infrastructure is finally coming along. We (NCEDB) are asking for the town's support of \$2,000."

The following agenda item concerned the council's approval to award the DEP agreement No. LPA0302 Hilliard Oxford Street Force Main Routing Project, contingent upon approval by the Department of environmental Protection and the Town Attorney, as well as the receipt of proper bonds and insurance certificates, to the low bidder, T.B. Landmark Construction, Inc. with a total amount of \$562,270.00. The council approved the bid winner and cost.

The next item concerned the approval of the Engineering Services Agreement from Mittauer & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$100,300.00, to prepare construction drawings and specification, for the Water Main Replacements Project. The council approved Mittauer & Associates, Inc.

The following item concerned the approval of the Administrative Services Agreement from Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$52,000, to provide the general administration aspects of the Water Main Replacements Project. The council approved Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc.

The next two items concerned IT upgrades for the town's systems per IT Director Guy Riner. The first item, a Capital Purchase of an IT Refresh Project in the amount of \$42,095.78, which the council approved. The second item was the Expansion of Technology to Town Hall Park in the amount of \$25,512 that will be paid by the Municipal Grant received from Nassau County. "We will be running fiber to the park and the room inside of

Continued from page 1

the building," said Riner. The council approved the expansion project.

Public Works Director Joel Hall P.E. advised the council concerning a budgeted Capital Purchase of the Ingham Road area drainage improvements. "The estimated cost of this project is \$39,940, in which we will be replacing culverts in that area," said Hall. "We are trying to take care of the areas in most need for improvements and replacements." The council approved the purchase.

Hall also requested approval of a Capital expenditure for Well #5 Pump repair. "This pump is at the Waste Water Plant close to the Fire Department," said Hall. "The well is 9-10 years old and needs to be repaired now. Complete Services was the sole source vendor for this job with a cost of \$46,540.00." The council approved the repair.

The next item was a very long discussion concerning resident Jon Hart's petition to open a right of way on his property, originally heard October 5, 2023. Land Use Administrator Lee Anne Wollitz did an amazing presentation concerning new maps of the area, old maps, and even older maps from way back when, explaining that from the beginning, the property was not platted correctly. The council gave Mr. Hart the option to look for the cheapest way to help him achieve what he wants. Mr. Hart is to respond to Mrs. Wollitz when he makes a decision.

The council approved moving Joel Hall from introductory/probationary status to regular fulltime. The council approved the status but Councilman Jared Wollitz also approved giving him a one-step increase. The council approved.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

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Lost and Found

John Hendricks

Lost: Strangely, a copy of a letter written in April of 1898 recently found its way to the edge of the parking lot of a business here in Callahan. The finder discovered it by chance, picked it up, and inquired inside. They were hoping to find the lost letter's owner, but no one at the company knew anything about this unusual find. It was as if this lost letter had suddenly fallen from the sky and landed randomly in our town. The lost letter is written on the letterhead of Fairfield Seminary and Military Academy, a prominent New York college long since shuttered. The handwriting is cursive, a style of writing that is fast becoming hard to find in use in our daily lives. The headmaster, Lt. George R. Burnett, is the author of this lost letter. He has written a one-page recommendation full of high praise for Josiah W. Clark, the College's cadet captain and military veteran who is seeking to return to the US Army. Josiah, Lt. Burnett writes, wants to fight for the "Cause of Cuba," better known as the Spanish-American War that started just days after this lost letter was written.

Found: A glimpse into the life of our Josiah W. Clark, who was born in 1871 in Montgomery County in upstate New York to Horatio and Maggie Clark. He served with distinction in the US Army for several years before being discharged with "excellent character" in 1894. In this letter, Lt. Burnett writes

of Josiah's "Christian character, his military qualifications, and aptitude and his earnestness." Burnett finishes the letter by predicting that our Josiah would return with "shoulder straps gloriously won on the field of battle." The Spanish American War was one of the shortest conflicts in American History: fighting between Spain and the US only lasted 16 weeks. The War claimed 3,000 American lives, but most died of yellow fever and typhoid. Sadly, our Josiah succumbed to the latter on September 12, 1898. Since Florida was a major training and staging area for the War, it is possible that our Josiah was in the area before his scheduled departure for Cuba. We can't say with certainty if our Josiah trained in Fort Clinch or passed by our Callahan Depot via train on his way to Tampa. What is certain is that our Josiah W. Clark was an American Army soldier and war veteran. Hopefully we can find the owner of this found copy of Lt Burnett's letter about our Josiah. The West Nassau Historical Society would be honored to have a copy of this found letter in our archives.

If you were the person that lost this letter, contact the Westside Journal at 879-4180.

John Hendricks is a local historian and lifetime member of the West Nassau Historical Society. The all-volunteer nonprofit meets on the 4th Thursdays of each Monday inside the historic Callahan Train Depot.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Is the Bible real? Is it truly the word of God? According to Gibran Alcocer, it is very true. Alcocer says, "The Bible is 66 books that were written by 40 different people over the course of 1500 years. There's never been a book like that in history! Does that make it the word of God? No, it means it's worth considering." Yeah, how about history? For hundreds of years Archelogy has used the Old Testament and the New Testament to find buildings, find people, find civilizations, find Kings, that didn't exist or they didn't think they did and suddenly the Bible said they're there. They dug it up and there it was! Does that make it the Word of God? No, it means it is historically accurate. Real people really existed and really wrote down what they saw, it's worth considering! Then they said, we're going to have God show up and a lot of people said that lots of religions say it. Don't worry we'll prove it, as a rational God would do. I will do prophecies. I will show that I'm not trapped in linear time that I can see beyond where you are. I will give prophecy to tell you about the guy when I show up. And God appears on earth to reveal Himself. I'll show what He's going to look like. Over 300 prophecies and then a man showed up one day named Jesus and He fulfilled all 300 prophecies. That's impossible.

People could say well yes, they just wrote it afterward and filled in. But we

know that the first Greek translation, the Old Testament was done 250 years before Jesus was born so how could they possibly know that He'd be born in Bethlehem and how could they possibly know He was going to be crucified when crucifixion didn't even exist as a capital punishment yet. How could they know that He'd be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver if it was 250 years before there was a Jesus? Does it make it the word of God, no but it makes it very close."

Given all the proof displayed here, I say, yes. It proves that the Bible is definitely the word of God! We all should heed the word of God. If the 300 prophecies in the Old Testament were fulfilled, why would anyone think the prophecies of the New Testament are not going to be fulfilled? Actually, prophecy is being fulfilled right before our eyes today.

Yes, I get worked up over the wickedness of our government. I despise what the left has done to our great country, and I will fight evil with everything I can, but I already know the end of the story and the beginning of eternity. Our troubles are real, the suffering is real, but if you know Jesus as your personal Savior, the reward is totally beyond human comprehension.

Yes, as always...that's just my opinion! However, I have solid evidence to back-up my opinion.

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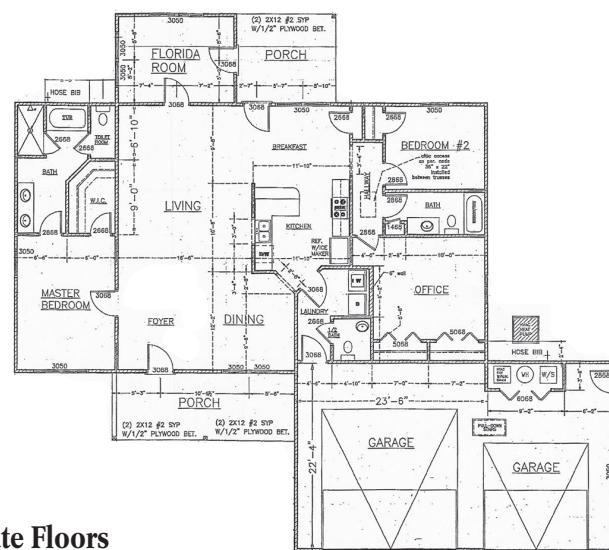
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Understanding the Bible: Part #2

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



In the last article, I stated my plan for writing the articles for the entire year. In January, I gave an overview of the Bible as it all relates to Christ. Everything that I am going to write in the next 11 articles is written with the assumption that the entire Bible is about Jesus. Every story connects to Jesus. For us to see how the whole Bible connects to Christ, we have to understand the contents of the individual books. In today's article, the first five books of the Bible will be considered. Space limitations will keep all of this extremely brief. My desire is that these articles and outlines would serve as a companion to help you walk through the Bible.

Genesis, means origin. Genesis a book of origins. The book of Genesis can be summarized as the origin of the human race (Genesis 1-11) and the origin of the Hebrew race (12-50). A simple outline of the book of Genesis is as follows:

- The Origin of the Human Race (4 Great Events): 1-11: Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel
- The Origin of the Hebrew Race (4 Great Men): 12-50: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. These chapters give the promise of a nation (Abraham), the creation of the nation (Isaac), the formation of the nation (Jacob/Israel), and the preservation of the nation (Joseph).

The book of Exodus picks up where Genesis stops. The people of God are now in Egyptian bondage. Exodus means departure. The book of Exodus tells us how God got his people out of bondage through redemption. Exodus can be summarized by two movements.

- Chapters 1-18: Deliverance: redemption from bondage
- Chapters 19-40: Duty: response to redemption

Leviticus means pertaining to the Levites. The dominate theme in the book of Leviticus is holiness. Leviticus shows us how God's redeemed people relate to him in holiness.

- The way to God: 1-10: sacrifice and priesthood
- The way to holiness: 11-20: laws
- The worship of God: 21-27: festivals and covenant

Numbers doesn't have a very original title. Numbers means Numbers. People matter to God. The book of Numbers tells the story of the 40-year wilderness journey because of unbelief. The book is divided into two census' (thus the name Numbers). The contents are divided as follows:

- Generation #1: Faithless: 1-25: die in the wilderness
- Generation #2: Faithful (not perfect, but they do get into the land): 26-36

Deuteronomy means second law. This makes perfect sense because the generation that received the law initially died in the wilderness. The book of contains Moses' final three speeches before he dies and the people enter the land.

- Sermon #1: What God has done: 1-3
- Sermon #2: What God expects: 4-26
- Sermon #3: What God will do: 27-30
- The end of an era: 31-34: Transition to Joshua

The Arc Nassau Celebrates Its Founders!

The Arc of Nassau is hosting a Founders Day Picnic to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its establishment! We are asking the community to help celebrate this significant historical milestone by joining us March 1, 2024 at The Arc Nassau from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for our Founder's Day Picnic. The Arc Nassau will provide lunch from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., conducting tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., having a gift wall event and burying a time capsule. If you're interested, visit Eventbrite and reserve



your space. The Arc Nassau is a non-profit organization that has been serving the intellectually and developmentally disabled community through their diverse programming for over 45 years. Programming for these clients consists of: day programming including life skills development, employment services, job coaching and on the job training. "The Mission of the Arc Nassau is to Educate, Motivate and Encourage individuals with varying disabilities to achieve independence and enjoy successful and fulfilling lives."

CES Warriors of the Month



Shown are the Warriors of the Month for the month of January at Callahan Elementary School. Our character trait for January was CITIZENSHIP. Students were chosen for showing great citizenship throughout their school days.

CHURCH NEWS

The Kingdom Heirs with special guests Lifeline Quartet will perform Friday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at Old Plank Baptist Church, 8964 Old Plank Rd., Jacksonville. Admission is \$10 per person. Children 10 & under Free. For information call 904-472-7865.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, Revival March 10 - 12 from 6-8 p.m. with Dr. Phil Kidd preaching the 11th & 12th. Special music by Heart-to-Heart on the 10th.

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Kim Hoffecker, Kirby-Smith Camp 1209

Two young men in period Confederate uniforms pose in front of one of Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 cannons during the recent reenactment of the Battle of Olustee (or Ocean Pond) in Baker County last Saturday. The battle occurred February 20, 1864 when Union troops leaving Jacksonville moved west to disrupt Confederate supply lines and attempt to capture the state capital in Tallahassee (which failed). The battle was a Confederate victory. Union losses were 1,861 while the Confederates lost 946.

For more information on the SCV visit: scv-kirby-smith.org.

Nonprofit Funding Requests for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

The Board of County Commissioners has begun the budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Nassau County greatly values the benefits and contributions made by non-profit organizations to the community. As such, we would like to extend an invitation to nonprofit organizations serving residents of Nassau County to apply to be considered for funding. To be considered, you must complete a Nonprofit Funding Request Application. This form can be found at: www.nassaucountyfl.com, under the Office of Management and Budget or by this direct link: <https://nassaufl.com/NPFundingApplication>.

Your funding request must be

provided to the Office of Management & Budget located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 2, Yulee, FL 32097, by the close of business on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

On Friday, May 17, 2024, a Public Forum will be held for agencies to make a brief presentation regarding your organization and its request. Agencies submitting funding requests will be contacted by the Office of Management & Budget to schedule a time for your presentation. For more information, contact Senior Budget Coordinator, Sharon Johns at (904) 530-6010, Option 2, or email: sjohns@nassaucountyfl.com.

Callahan Masonic Lodge Angel Tree

In December 2023, Callahan Masonic Lodge #32 held their 5th Annual Angel Tree. They provided Christmas for 68 children and food baskets for 26 families. There were 68 angels on the tree. People came from Jacksonville and all of Nassau County to choose a child/angel to help provide Christmas for.



You don't know how much this meant to us to have our community come out and participate. None of this would be possible each year without you. Thank you so much.

A special shout out to Winn Dixie in Callahan for their VERY generous donation. Their donation was instrumental in allowing us to provide food baskets for 26 families in need. A special Thank you to First Class Tile in Callahan for their generous donation. Your donation helped us provide Christmas to a family that came forward the day before pickup.

Without your generous donation this family would not have had a Christmas. Also, a special Thank You to Wal-Mart at River City for your generous donation of bicycles for our Angels. In addition to these generous donations, other Masonic Lodges participated, specifically Ionic Lodge #101. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We are already looking forward to and preparing for our 2024 Angel Tree. If you would like to donate to our Angel Tree or need more information, please contact Don Nichols at (904) 859-3991.

SENIORS' NIGHT OUT

We are excited to announce that we will offer a free "Seniors' Night Out" in Callahan, Saturday, March 9 from 4-9 p.m. at the Callahan Multi-purpose building and the outside courtyard of the Callahan Fairgrounds. The event is for people in the community who are 55 and older.

This FREE event will feature a buffet dinner from Callahan BBQ, dance lessons, live music by "Laid Back" with intermittent dance times with a DJ, door prizes and more. The Council on Aging will be offering an ongoing shuttle service from the Fairgrounds parking lot to the main entrance of the event.

We hope that all of our seniors will take this opportunity for a fun night of dining, dancing, and socializing!

If you have any questions, please contact Parks & Recreation Director, Jay Robertson, at (904) 530-6120.



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Are you looking for a place to escape to and maybe generate some passive income? Located high on the banks of the St. Marys river, this spacious, 3-story home has been well cared for. Perfect for a large family

or it could be used for an AIRB&B! You can fish the floating docks, swim or ski in the river or just enjoy the beauty of nature. New paint, freshly serviced A/C, new fascia outside, sliding glass doors and garage door recently replaced. With the enjoyable view and serenity, the possibilities are endless. MLS #106538

48077 MERIDIAN TRAIL • HILLIARD



This beautiful, 3BR brick home sits on 2.5 acres and has been meticulously cared for. The attention to detail in this home is quite refreshing and it has the upgrades most people want including

granite counters, stainless steel appliances, double oven and more. The master bedroom is spacious with a soaker tub. Located 1.6 miles from the public boat ramp on the St. Marys River. Bring the horses and chickens! Detached garage will make the perfect Man Cave. MLS #106788

1786 TOMPKINS LANDING RD. HILLIARD



This 2-story home is over 3,300 sq. ft. that's meticulously crafted. It features a wood burning fireplace, upgraded granite countertops throughout, Kitchenaid Stainless

Steel appliances, and a sprawling layout. The view from the second floor balcony is breathtaking. Sitting on 5 acres, deer feed on the Live oaks. The fenced property includes a separate pole barn, workshop and pump house. Price Reduced! MLS #106234

371662 HENRY SMITH RD • HILLIARD



This all-brick home sits on 5 acres just outside the Hilliard city limits. With 3 bedrooms, a large master bedroom and 2 baths, a walk-in closet in the master and a wide open floor plan, it's the perfect place to raise a

family. The family room has a wood burning fireplace and is open to the kitchen so you can socialize while cooking. There's an RV shed off to the side with utilities, a garage that is a workshop and a good-sized pole barn in the back. Bring the animals and you can have a taste of country life close to town. MLS #106235

32415 POND PARKE PLACE FERNANDINA BEACH



Located in beautiful Flora Parke, this home is spacious with 1,900 sq. ft. of living space. This home is located on a cul-de-sac and backs up to a pond and preserve area. Kitchen bar for those

conversations and separate dining area with easy access to the kitchen. Outside you'll find an open air covered patio and plenty of room to fire up the grill or enjoy your morning coffee. MLS #106256

34019 AMERICA LANE • CALLAHAN



This all brick home features a metal roof, tile floors throughout the home, spacious bedrooms with large closets and a functioning fireplace for those cool winter nights. The back porch is screened in

so you can enjoy that morning or evening coffee. You'll enjoy country life sitting on 2.02 acres (zoned Open Rural) with a partially fenced back yard. Located just outside of Callahan off US 301, you'll find this location close enough to conveniences like shopping and schools. MLS #106258



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New Beginnings and Milestones

Michael Rey Perez



Jorge and Gisselle Perez, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their son Michael Rey Perez. Michael was born February 6 at 11:49 a.m. at UF Health North in Jacksonville. He weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Ruben Pena and Gricell Fernandez of Jacksonville.

Maternal grandparents are Justo Luis Rives and Maria Sosa of Jacksonville. Proud great-grandparents are Maria Sosa and the late Justo Rives.

Michael was welcomed home by his siblings Daniel (7) and Casey (5)!

Masters Retires from Tax Collectors Office

After 18 years of service to the citizens of Nassau County, Tina Masters retired from the Nassau County Tax Collector's office with Friday, February 16, her last day! Tina began her career in 2006. Tina has worked at every one of the Tax Collector's office locations over the years. You may have seen her at our Historic Courthouse office over the past several years or most recently working in our Callahan Branch.

Tina was the first employee to receive the Employee of the Year award from the office and is a two-time award winner. She was also one of the first customer service representatives to issue birth certificates at our front counter. Tina has received innumerable customer accolades for her superior



customer service. We are going to miss her extensive job knowledge and dedication to her customers. We wish her all the best as she enters this exciting new chapter in life as a fulltime retiree!

Tina and her husband, Marty, plan to do a lot of traveling! She mentioned two places on her list to visit are the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park. The couple both enjoy the outdoors and love to hunt and fish! Congratulations!



Valentine's Day Balloons Donated



Every Valentines Day, Hilliard Family Dollar Manager Kim Morgan, collects balloon donations from people in our community for all the residents at the Life Care Center of Hilliard! Thank you to everyone that donated and made Valentine's Day so special for the residents!

Life Care Center Celebrates Valentine's Day



The Life Care Center of Hilliard celebrated Valentine's Day with a huge party in the dining room for all the residents to attend! They had a wonderful time of eating and great music!

Residents voted on a King and Queen to represent the center.

**King Clarence Webber
and
Queen Doris Chaires**



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Westside Seniors Celebrate Valentine's Day!



Queen Lorraine Wilber and King John Jones

Last Wednesday, February 14, the Westside Senior Center was the place to be to celebrate with our seniors. I want to share right now, if you are a senior (60 years old and above) and would like to enjoy some great company and meet new friends, the Westside Senior Center is where you need to be! Seniors begin around 8:30 a.m. each morning and enjoy coffee or tea and a little snack. They enjoy playing games, working on puzzles and sometimes playing Bingo! Around 11 a.m. they enjoy lunch together. If you want to learn more about the senior center, call 845-3331.

Now back to the Valentine celebration. This year a King & Queen were chosen from the clients voting on their favorites. This year's winners were: King John Jones and Queen

Lorraine Wilber. Following the crowning, John and Lorraine chose to share their crowns with the runners up, as only one vote separated them. Runners up were Sylvester Ross and Dorothy Richo.

Also, everyone attending, received a long stem rose provided from the Nassau County Retired Educators Association. Mrs. Barbara Leach delivered the roses and Mrs. Ann Pearson shared the

thought behind the gift of roses. Both ladies were representing the Retired Educators. The NCREA joined with the AARP's Cupid Crew. Each year the group hopes to help lessen the impact of social isolation for senior adults. The goal of the group was to pass out over 100,000 roses to seniors on Valentine's Day.



Runners up: Dorothy Richo and Sylvester Ross

CMS and WNHS Collect for Totty's Totes

During the month of February, the Callahan Middle School BETA club and the West Nassau High School National Honor Society collected items for Totty's Totes as part of their service project for the month. Baylie Cruce, founder of Totty's Totes, was invited to speak to BETA students in January to share not only about Totty's Totes but to offer advice to the middle school students about their upcoming journey in high school. "It was an honor to return to my former school for a second year to share with the students. I am so thankful that they support this ministry," stated Baylie.



She went back to collect items that were donated throughout the month. Items such as shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste and journals were brought in by BETA students. Later in the month, the National Honor Society at West Nassau collected the same type of items for Totty's Totes as part of their

service project. Baylie is the President of the NHS and is grateful to have the support for her nonprofit from her very own peers. "When the NHS officers asked about using Totty's Totes as a service project, I was very excited to see students in my school wanting to support us," added Baylie.

These projects could not have come at a better time as the nonprofit organization recently expanded its reach to include a fourth partner. Totty's Totes now donates their hand sewn totes full of hygiene items, encouraging gifts and a Bible to First Coast Women's Services who give the totes to women facing unexpected pregnancy. "We started out donating to just one of their centers but seeing the impact these bags have made on recipients has prompted their other five centers to want bags as well! We are excited to work with them," said Baylie.

If you would like more information regarding Totty's Totes visit their website: www.tottystotes.org.



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The 12th Annual Kruisin4Kids Car Show will be held this Saturday, February 24 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event is a ministry of Dinsmore Baptist Church, as they value the youth in our community. Since the church has such a huge heart for young people, they hold this fundraiser each year to help benefit children in need. The Kruisin4Kids Car Show has been a huge success and continues to grow every year with the support from the community! This year will not disappoint! We look forward to

seeing some great looking Hot Rods, Classic Cars, Trucks and Motorcycles late and early models. There will also be a burnout competition with a cash prize! There will be a DJ playing family friendly music and a 50/50 cash draw contest. Make plans to attend and support this great event!

Livestock Forages of Nassau County

Bermudagrass, Thursday, February 29, 1 - 2 p.m.
Bryceville Community Center (7280 Motes Road, Bryceville)
Cost: Free - To register, call David Hebert at 904-530-6356

We will be exploring the profile of the livestock forage plant, including its biological, morphological, and livestock nutrition advantages. During the discussion, we'll highlight the forage's economic implications and management options. The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all our events. For disability accommodations such as alternate formats of written material, please contact David Hebert, david.hebert@ufl.edu (904)530-6356 at least one week in advance.

Landscape Matters: Understanding Garden Fertilizer

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Where: Online or In-Person, Hilliard Library, 15821 CR 108, Hilliard
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When we walk into garden centers, we can find ourselves surrounded by different types of garden fertilizers and our heads spinning. Join the Master Gardener Volunteers at the Hilliard Library to learn about garden fertilizers, how to apply them, and how to protect Florida's water quality.

Join us online or in person. There is no registration fee. During registration, let us know if you plan on attending in person or online. Everyone registering will automatically receive a sign-in link to view the program online. The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as alternate formats of written material, please contact Taylor Clem, taylorclem87@ufl.edu, (904)530-6353 at least one week in advance.

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.

Friday, February 16

Wendell Elbert Gillins, 72, Callahan: Battery Touch or Stike Domestic Violence

Eric Douglas Kiesow, 26, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1 Substance (more than 20 grams of Cannabis); Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance (x 2); DUI Influence of Alcohol; Possession Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams; DUI

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RICHARD BOOTH



Richard Booth, 67, passed away February 16, 2024, from his battle with lung cancer. He was born July 30, 1956 in Long Island, New York. A northern boy at heart, Richie was a mechanic for over 35 years, owning his own shop and gaining a reputation for being a mechanic that someone could trust. This is where he met his wife of 33 years, Pam. The couple dated, moved to Florida, and eventually got married in Folkston. Pam and Richie also had a daughter together, Melyssa, and continued moving around Florida, living in St. Augustine, Jacksonville, and eventually ending up in Callahan.

Richie had a great love for the outdoors and with every move, he ensured that the family lived in more country areas of the suburbs, allowing them to have large yards and massive vegetable gardens. He enjoyed spending time outside, especially gardening and fishing with his good friend, Wilbur. Richie also shared his joy for the outdoors with Melyssa, as the two of them spent numerous hours outside playing in the yard or grilling oysters on the grill. He loved coaching Melyssa's various sports teams as she grew up, helping her to gain a love of competition and cheering her on regardless of the often times smoldering heat. The love of the outdoors remained a constant in their relationship, as Richie and Melyssa went fishing together every Father's Day as she grew up. Even while undergoing cancer treatments, Richie felt most at peace while being outside, oftentimes sitting on the porch with Pam and their three rottweilers, Callie, Ozzie, and Lulu, watching the deer and turkeys in their backyard.

Richie is survived by his wife Pam; daughter Melyssa; long-time childhood friend Bobby; and four siblings Sharon, Steven, Maureen and Thomas; and many extended family members and friends.

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

OBITUARIES

JOYCE ANN BUCHANAN



Joyce Ann "Mimi" Buchanan, 76, of Hilliard, entered the presence of Jesus February 16, 2024. She was born August 8, 1947 in Owensboro, Kentucky to the late Robert Henry "Pappy" Holland, Sr. and Della Catherine "Granny" Millay Holland. She earned her Bachelors Degree from Jacksonville University and was an Educator in the Nassau County School System for 37 years. Mimi was the most servant hearted person and loved endlessly. She was a true Proverbs 31 woman. She loved cooking for family gatherings and having all her family with her as much as she could. She was a charter member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, where she faithfully and joyfully served and worshipped.

In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her brother Robert Henry "Gunner" Holland, Jr.

Ann is survived by her husband of 55 years, David Walker Buchanan; three children Marella (Dallis) Hunter, Hucks (Elizabeth) Buchanan and Ben (Sarah) Buchanan; nine grandchildren Isaac, Lydia, Hannah, Luke, Molly, Walker, Noah (Bri), Anna and Sara; two sisters Peggy (Cris) McConnell and Sarah (James) Mosley; a sister-in-law Janet Holland; and a host of extended family members and numerous friends.

The family received friends Sunday, February 18 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m. The funeral service was held Monday, February 19 at the First Baptist Church of Hilliard with Pastor Jesse Pickett and Pastor Ryan Mason officiating.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

TERESA RENEE FLOWERS



Teresa Renee Flowers, 68, of Callahan, passed away February 17, 2024. She was born November 21, 1955 in Charlotte, North Carolina to Olin Gilbert Vinesett and Patricia Ann Gibbs Flowers. Teresa was a member of the CW Hilliard Auxiliary Unit 401 where she helped serve her community. She was also part of the "Sisters of 73" group. Teresa truly loved life and was the life of the party. She was one of the most genuine, outgoing, funny, and friendliest people you had ever met. Teresa had a giving heart of gold and always made you feel comfortable with her bright and energetic personality she never met a stranger. She had a passion for riding motorcycles, especially her Harley Davidson and loved to travel. Teresa adored animals and loved music. She has also been mistaken for looking like Wyonna Judd a time or two. Teresa had a true flare for life and will be deeply missed. Teresa was preceded in death by her father Olin Gilbert Vinesett; and stepfather Charles B. Flowers.

Teresa leaves behind her mother, Patricia Flowers; several special friends and friends who were more like sisters, that love her dearly.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, February 24 at 2 p.m. at Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

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

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

JANET CARTER HILL



Janet Rose Carter 'MawMaw' Hill, 91, went home to be with the Lord February 16, 2024, after a life of faith and gratitude for her many blessings. She lived energetic and hopeful, funny and songful, sugary-sweet and warm, peaceful and proud. She was the lifeblood of the family. She is, forever, our pocket full of starlight.

Janet was born to George Christy Carter, Sr. and Jennie Ruth Stanfield Carter November 30, 1932 in Jacksonville. She was one of ten siblings George Christy Carter, Jr., Truman Leon Carter, Eileen Carter, Ruth Dolores Carter Phillips, Beverly E. Carter, Byron Carter, Walton L. Carter, Patricia W. Nave, Robert Carter and Merle Aspinwall, and maintained a distinct and enjoyable connection with each of them throughout her life. She was very close to her brothers Walton and Christy, who would always remember to bring her home something sweet. Janet, Merle and Pat had an unbreakable bond, their closeness evident through daily phone calls, heckling, and heart-to-heart conversations.

In her younger years, Janet was known as something of a smartie: quick-witted and sharp-tongued. She had a hankering for pranks and troublemaking, too! From shooting spitballs on the bus to joining several school fights. In 1951, Janet

graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and married Eddie Walton Farmer, Jr. They lived in Highlands until 1955, then moved to Dinsmore. Together they had Charles (1953), Bruce (1955), Sandra (1956), Keith (1957), Nancy (1961), and Diane (1964).

In 1967, her marriage ended. To provide for her family, Janet began working as a secretary in the City of Jacksonville. It was at her first job that she met poet Dawne Yancey, her dearest friend for more than 50 years. Amidst working fulltime for the city and various night jobs as an events usherette, Janet competed for and earned the position of Administrative Secretary to the Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She served the City of Jacksonville for over 32 years, thrilled by fiery local politics, fast-paced courtrooms, and civil service. She became a skilled typist, writer, and analyst who devised her own system of shorthand, drafted the most thoughtful letters, and went straight to the heart of matters. Around that time, the first group of grandchildren dubbed her MawMaw, which she was then called most adoringly for the remainder of her life.

When MawMaw retired, she moved to an old pine tree farm in Hilliard and enjoyed her days and talents fully, watching Matlock and HeeHaw, tending to vegetable and flower gardens, perfecting fried chicken, cooking and canning strawberry preserves, sewing, listening to Patsy Cline and Tennessee Ernie Ford, front porch birdwatching, devising homespun inventions, hunting for errors in the local newspapers, and loving her dogs Gunner and Nan-Dee. More than anything, MawMaw's joy was rooted in her family and her faith. These days were MawMaw's most delightful, hosting cousin sleepovers, attending ball games, caring for her children and grandchildren, and proudly wearing her homemade puff-paint sweaters wherever she went. You knew you were loved when she'd call you "sweedart" or "darling," wink and blow sugar at you from across the room, whisper something goofy just for you to hear, bring you fresh cut flowers from her garden, or place small strips of handwritten notes for you to find in your belongings. She never sang folk songs the same way twice, could always be found outside, and loved to pinch and poke. She sang absolutely everything. She was perfectly huggable, snuggling her head under your chin and wrapping you up in a squeeze you'd never want to break from; an eternal embrace we feel today as we remember her sweet, special life. MawMaw, we love you the most. She is preceded in death by her spouses Mr. Farmer and Mr. Hill; her son Bruce Wayne "Butch" Farmer; son-in-law Pat Lynch and 10 siblings.

Surviving family include five children Chuck (Ginger) Farmer, Sandra Lynch (Rick) Fazzio, Keith Farmer, Nancy (Michael) Blyler and Diane Farmer; stepson Bob (Meg) Hill; 11 grandchildren Josh (Crystal) Farmer, Michele Farmer, Morgan Farmer, Garry (Danene) Lynch, Jason (Joy) Lynch, Daniel Lynch, Bethany (Jeremy) Roca, Leslie Baker, John Blyler, Jenna Blyler, Tabitha Cano, Abigail Hill, and Katarina Hill; and 11 great-grandchildren; and a host of family members and friends.

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The family will receive friends Friday, February 23 from 11 a.m. – noon at The Event Center at Peeples, 14165 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, prior to the celebration of life service at noon. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.pffh.com. Arrangements by Peeples Family Funeral Homes, Jacksonville.

SALLIE ANN JOHNSON



Sallie Ann Johnson, 74, of Jacksonville, passed away February 10, 2024. She was born July 7, 1949, in Woodbine, Georgia to Clyde and Billie Daniels. Ann was a sweetheart who was deeply devoted to her family and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was employed by National Merchandise as a department supervisor for 20 years and later retired from American Coolair Corporation after 20 years.

Ann leaves behind her loving husband of 57 years, Charles “Rodney” Johnson; their sons Charles (Carol) Johnson, Jr. and Joseph Johnson; brother Bartow (Maggie); 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Johnny and Paul; and sisters Patricia, Pauline and Jeanette.

A celebration of Ann’s life was held Thursday, February 22 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Dwight Allen officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to the Breast Cancer Foundation in Ann’s honor.

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

HETTIE LAVERNE NEECE

Hettie Laverne Neece, 83, of Hilliard, passed away Friday, February 16, 2024 in Jacksonville, following a brief illness. She was born October 26, 1940 in Jacksonville, to the late Eugene McMahel and Jewel Louise Nicks McMahel. She was a loving and caring mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband Fred Neece; a son Jimmy Darrell Hogge; and two brothers Gene McMahel and Wayne McMahel.

OBITUARIES

She is survived by her children Randy (Tanya) Goodman, Wanda Elsea and Sandra DeLaCruz; two sisters Annette Hicks and Sue McMahel; two brothers Dale McMahel and Wallace McMahel; grandchildren Katherine Elsea, Amy (Jeff) Duffy, Avery Cox, Brandon (Sara) Goodman, RJ (Kayli) Goodman, Dillon (Wynter) Goodman, Liam Goodman and Randilynn Goodman; great-grandchildren Londyn Goodman, Kallie Goodman, DJ Goodman, Jayden Duffy, Ava Duffy, Maverick Goodman and Dominic Goodman.

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. Tuesday, February 27 at Buford Grove Baptist Church Cemetery prior to the graveside service at 2 p.m.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

EDWARD LEE STROUD



Lee Stroud, 82, of Hilliard, passed away February 16, 2024. He was born on August 28, 1941 in Tabor City, North Carolina. Lee, a retired Firefighter

Engineer from the Jacksonville Fire-Rescue Department, served in the United States Air Force. Described as kind, loving, understanding and helpful, Lee was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Boulougne in Hilliard. In his free time, he enjoyed working in his garden and traveling extensively, having visited New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Hawaii, Alaska, and the Arctic Ocean in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents Leon and Agnes Stroud; father and mother-in-law Albert and Jessie Brown; brothers Alton and Jimmy Stroud; children Sherri Stroud Adams and Jeffrey Stroud; and granddaughter Jessica Stroud King.

Lee is survived by his beloved wife, Debra Brown Stroud; grandchildren Shelby Rhoden, Nick Stroud and Kyle Murphey; great-grandson Anthony King; sisters-in-law Barbara (Alton) Stroud and Sandy Brown Barber; sister Betty (Paul) Volkner; brother Joe Stroud; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family will receive friends at 1

p.m. Thursday, February 22, at Evergreen Chapel, 4535 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, prior to the funeral service to honor Lee’s life at 2 p.m. with Brother Paul Lucas, officiating. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements by Evergreen Cemetery, Funeral Home and Crematory, Jacksonville, (904) 353-3649.

WOODIE ROGERS WEST



Woodie Rogers West, 78, of Hilliard, passed away February 17, 2024 at his home. He was born in Knoxville, Tennessee to the late John West and Belva

Hurst West. He proudly served his country in the US Army and was honorably discharged November 26, 1969. He was a car hauler by trade and a member of the Teamsters Local 512.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Belva West; a daughter Angela West; two sisters Wanda Gail West and Darlene West; and two brothers William “Buster” West and Richard West.

Woodie is survived by his wife of 46 years, Patsy Reed West; his son Woody (Erin) West of Hilliard; a step-son Michael Bryant; a step-daughter Tashia (Robby) Davis; a brother Johnny “Buddy” (Pat) West; and two sisters Teresa West Bahler and Francie West; a sister-in-law Chris

West; grandchildren Gage West, Parker West, Kristina (Ken) Douglas, Robert (Kellie) Davis, Emily (Chris) Hammond, Sarah Jane Bryant and Montgomery Bryant; great-grandchildren Kaden May, Arabella Douglas and Avrie Davis; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

M.L. WILLIS, JR.



Marion Lincoln “M.L.” Willis, Jr., 74, of Hilliard, passed away Friday, February 16, 2024 in Fernandina Beach.

He was born February 1, 1950 in Jacksonville to the late Marion Lincoln Willis, Sr. and Betty Virginia Hatcher Willis. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his wife Hope Svendsen Willis and a sister Delores Holland.

M.L. is survived by his children Charleen (Jeremy) Whittemore, Josh (Leslie) Willis and Matt Svendsen; six grandchildren Macy Whittemore, Colbitt Willis, Chaly Whittemore, Emily Willis, Grady Whittemore and Maddison Willis; a sister Fay (Doc) Green; and a several extended family members and friends.

The family will receive friends at 5 p.m. Friday, March 1 at the First Baptist Church in Callahan prior to the celebration of life service held at 6 p.m.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

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Hilliard Boys Basketball Headed to the Final 4



Tuesday night, the Hilliard High School Varsity boys basketball team competed in the Class 1A Regional Finals. Hilliard High School's gymnasium reached maximum capacity and many fans were left outside during the much anticipated match between Hilliard and Fort White. In a hyped and heated battle, the Flashes went into halftime leading by only two points. The Flashes returned to the court in the third quarter with determination, but it wasn't until the fourth quarter when they took a substantial lead. When the buzzer sounded, the Hilliard Flashes became the 1A Regional Champions defeating Fort White 64-51. The Flashes will travel to Lakeland for the State Semifinals on Friday, March 1 to take on Crossroad Academy. Go Flashes!



Team members include: Malcolm Warthen, CJ Hall, Brandyn Seldomridge, DJ Alderman, Kevin Thomas, Braydon Holley, James Foster, Javone Lee, Nate Vroman, Ethan Garland, King McMillian, Justin Bennett, Christopher Church and Anthony Nue with Head Coach Myron Saunders and Assistant Coach Carlous Hall.



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