

"IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND." - 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

## Warrior Football Hires New Head Coach

Dawn S. West

West Nassau High School has recently hired a new Head Coach for the Warrior football team. The new coach is Gunnar Cox. The position was posted through the Nassau County School Board with the qualifications listed. Several applicants applied. The top six applicants were interviewed before a committee, the principal and Athletic Director Richie Knott. Coach Cox met all the criteria and qualifications and was the best fit for the West Nassau football program.

Coach Cox is not new to the coaching scene. He most recently served an assistant coach at Hilliard High School since 2018. Prior to that, following graduation from Jacksonville University and playing football, he was an assistant coach at JU for two years. Coach Cox graduated from Yulee High School and then attended JU where he achieved his Master's Degree. He will finish this school year teaching at Hilliard High School and in the fall begin teaching at West Nassau.

Coach Cox has already begun to meet one-on-one with several of the West Nassau football players. "I am so excited for this great opportunity. I started playing football when I was 7-years-old. It has always been a huge part of my life," said Coach Cox. "This has always been my dream to be a



head coach. I enjoy teaching and I love coaching and sharing my knowledge of the game I love so much. I have been influenced by so many great coaches and I look forward to being the best coach I can be."

Coach Cox has begun to put together his staff, which one new member will be his brother, Waylon Cox, who also is coming from Hilliard. Spring football will begin May 1 and Coach Cox is looking forward to a great spring of getting to know the players and sharing his love of football with his team. Coach Cox also shared he will be getting married in April!

In December, Rickey Armstrong resigned his position as West Nassau Head Football Coach. Armstrong has been at West Nassau since 2014. He left with an overall record of 54 wins, 43 losses.

## Barnabas Center Awarded Firehouse Subs Grant



Shown (l to r) are John Mullman, Maureen Paschke, Liza Cotter, Robin Peters, Barnabas President and CEO Jamie Reynolds, Avalee Delay, and Rev. Joe Woodfin.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has recently awarded a \$3,723 grant to Barnabas Center to purchase two automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The new equipment will allow our first responders to be better prepared in emergency situations and protect the citizens of Nassau County. "On behalf of the Barnabas Center and its medical clinic providers, I want to thank Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation and our local Firehouse Subs in Fernandina Beach and Wildlight," said Jamie Reynolds, Barnabas CEO/President. "We are so grateful to be awarded the necessary resources to continue to keep Nassau County safe and protected."

The awarded grant will be used to purchase

two AEDs to place on the Barnabas Mobile Health Van and at the satellite health clinic in Callahan.

For the past 16 years, donations have been the driving force behind Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation® supporting first responders and public safety organizations nationwide. To learn more about Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation or donate directly, visit FirehouseSubsFoundation.org.



## GET HELP NOW!



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

If you love someone struggling with drug or alcohol use, you may feel alone and unsure where to turn for help. That is where Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) can help. PAL weekly meetings provide a structured, evidence-based curriculum to give you the tools you need to encourage your loved one's recovery without enabling their addiction. Equally important is the opportunity to network with other parents and loved ones struggling with the same issues, for support and fellowship.

The free and confidential meetings are held on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Baptist Association in Yulee; and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. Come and learn new ways to deal with your loved ones and gain a better understanding of addiction. For more information, call (904) 703-7847 or email at tashiad210@gmail.com. There is hope!

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## A Word From the Publisher

I don't know about you, but I'm loving this weather. I know it's pretty much of a roller coaster ride each week but I'm still okay with that. Remember, that's why we chose to live in Florida. Last weekend, was so nice, I spent some time cutting off some of the dead pieces of my plants. This weekend I continued that project, trimmed a little more and gave them all a good watering! I love being outside and enjoying the beautiful surroundings that God has provided! This weekend, I noticed a few green sprigs already popping out. Isn't it just amazing how God created everything? Even though the plants went through a very cold few days...they still managed to survive.

I'm not really sure how we got to the end of February already but it's very close. I just want to once again, thank our advertisers for their continued support of our paper. Of course, without the support of our readers using our advertisers it wouldn't really work! These are tough times in the business world for everyone. As we continue to do our job to provide an informative publication that keeps the interest of our readers, it's also very important to support our advertisers. When I think about our paper and how it all works, it's truly a God thing. To think that we could publish a newspaper every week and direct mail to 13,000 residents and businesses each week free of charge (to the homes not the post office), it's only because God is in it.

I know I do speak of God quite often. It's only because He is in charge and not me. Many times I have tried to be in control and I continued to make a mess of things. I recently heard a song and I've heard it before but never really listened to the words. When I finally did, wow, it is so true in my life. The song is: God is in this Story by Katy Nichole & Big Daddy Weave. The song shares that God is in this (my) story and God is in the details. How many times do we try to work things out but forget the details? Oh what a mess that turns out to be. The song goes on to say: when I'm at my weakest I will trust in Jesus. There have been many weak times in my life recently. So many, that I've learned not to say what next? I have learned to take one day at a time and one moment at a time. God is in the details...He's got this.

We live in a sin filled broken world. The only hope for the world is Jesus. Each day I continue to lean on Jesus to see me through. If you are searching, never content, frustrated, anxious, then spend some time with Jesus to receive only the peace and comfort He can give. I'm so thankful to be a child of the King! But even though I am, I still have difficult times. I've learned to celebrate Jesus in the wonderful times and lean on Jesus through the tough times. You know what? He's always there waiting...

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*

## Tree Planting Workshop and Free Tree Event

We are pleased to announce the return of an in-person educational workshop led by Taylor Clem, PhD and Director UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County, Monday, February 27 from 2-3:30 p.m. at 85831 Miner Road, Yulee. The in-person workshop will help residents select the right tree for their planting location and learn how to properly care for new trees. Workshop participants will be able to register for their free trees and will be eligible for a drawing for a specimen tree. Space is limited and registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/knb-tree-giveaway-presentation-tickets-530662334327>.

Keep Nassau Beautiful (KNB) volunteers and partner organizations will be distributing 500 nursery size, free trees during three drive-through events where residents will pick-up one or two free trees to be planted in Nassau County.

Not able to attend the workshop? Individuals, businesses, and organizations may reserve free trees by completing these simple steps; reviewing UF/IFAS tree fact sheets for the available species and viewing an educational video led by UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County Director, Taylor Clem, PhD. After a review of the educational material, residents will be ready to complete the Free Tree Reservation form to select their

preferred tree species and pick-up location. Completion of the reservation form is required 72 hours prior to the drive-through event. Nassau County proof of residency is required the day of the event to pick up one or two of our 3-gallon size trees. Residents are also asked to help the tree get its best chance at a healthy long life by following a watering schedule until the tree gets established.

Free tree drive-through events are scheduled as follows: Callahan, Saturday, March 18; Yulee, Saturday, March 25; and Fernandina Beach, Saturday, April 1. All events will be held between 9-11 a.m. Details and reservation form at <https://keepnassaubeautiful.org/news-and-events/>. Volunteers are needed to help with traffic flow and to help residents put trees in their vehicles for a safe ride to their new home! Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/volunteer-free-tree-drive-through-events-1070369>.

The project is being generously funded through dedicated grants, fundraising activities and private donations. Liberty Landscape Supply sponsors the supply of the 5-species of trees for the events.

For more information, email [KNB@KeepNassauBeautiful.org](mailto:KNB@KeepNassauBeautiful.org) or call 904-261-0165.

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### In the Kitchen... Easy Chicken Casserole

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves 1 (10.5 oz.) can condensed cream of chicken soup 1 cup sour cream	¼ cup chopped onion (optional) ¼ cup chopped mushrooms (optional) 32 buttery round crackers, crumbled
--	---

Preheat the oven to 350°. Fill a large pot with water; bring to a boil. Cook chicken in boiling water until no longer pink inside, 20 to 30 minutes. Chop chicken into bite-sized pieces and place in a 9x13-inch baking dish. Combine soup, sour cream, onion, and mushrooms in a bowl. Pour mixture over chicken and top with crumbled crackers. Cover and bake in the preheated oven until top is lightly browned, about 30 minutes.

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Dawn West ..... Publisher  
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## NOTICE FOR BIDS

### TOWN OF HILLIARD

### 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.

# Preparations for 2024 Election Cycle

Janet Adkins, Supervisor of Elections

Thank you to all the Nassau County citizens who participated in the 2022 elections! Our office is grateful to our election workers who successfully and safely conducted three elections in 2022. Voter turnout for the General Election was 63.23%, one of the highest in the northeast Florida area. St. Johns County's turnout was 64.82%.



We are now looking ahead to 2024, which will feature three elections: the Presidential Preference Primary on March 19, 2024; the Primary Election on August 20, 2024; and the General Election on November 5, 2024. The changing role of technology in elections has become a central focus and is an essential part of our planning process. In 2022, we implemented the first elections mobile app in Florida to help voters stay connected to current election information. Among other features, voters can find their polling place, track their mail ballot and look up early voting wait times from one convenient app.

For the first time in Nassau County, we communicated with voters via customized text messages. Our principal purpose was to ensure voters received relevant, real-time election information. One unexpected benefit were the voters who responded with information to update their voter record. Please let us know if you found these text messages helpful. We are continually looking for new ways to communicate with voters that is both convenient and relevant.

Ensuring our voter rolls are up to date is an important and never-ending

task. List maintenance is the foundation of election security and we are working every day to keep Nassau County elections secure. One measure of list maintenance is the number of undeliverable vote-by-mail ballots returned in an election. In the November 2022 General Election, 19,290 vote-by-mail ballots were mailed to voters. Of those, 104 (or .005%) were returned to our office as undeliverable. In the November 2020 General Election, 23,166 vote-by-mail ballots were mailed to voters with 395 (or .017%) returned to our office as undeliverable. We believe this decrease in undeliverable mail is due to the list maintenance efforts implemented in the last two years.

Recognizing the growing demand for real-time information, we have modernized our website to make it more intuitive and user-friendly. We are collaborating with Disability Rights Florida to improve our website accessibility and to increase our staffs' general awareness of polling location accessibility, i.e., understanding the negative impact that signs in the middle of the sidewalk can have on a voter in a wheelchair. Making elections accessible to all voters is an important responsibility of our office.

Please contact our office with any questions, concerns, or feedback on how you believe we can better serve Nassau County voters. If you have moved or changed your name, please contact our office at 904-491-7500 so that we can update your voter record.

It is my pleasure to serve as your Supervisor of Elections, and I look forward to hearing from you!

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Even though it would be difficult, could our current acting president actually be charged with treason? Article IV, Section 4 of our Constitution REQUIRES our government to protect and defend our borders. If government does not, the Constitution, by virtue of the named part herein, authorizes the Free Citizens to defend themselves and their state in place of a TREASONOUS GOVERNMENT. In not defending our borders, the government is giving "aid and comfort" to a hostile foreign invasion; and this, under Article III, Section 3 of our Constitution is properly labeled TREASON.

It would all be resting on the definition of "hostile." The fact that we as a nation are being invaded at our southern border is 100% verifiable on a daily basis. We all know that our government is giving "aid and comfort" to millions of illegal immigrants that are invading our borders. We had a Chinese spy balloon traverse our country with complete knowledge of the president, was that a hostile act by China and does that constitute "aiding" by the president since he allowed it to continue to fly all the way across America before taking action?

My thoughts on the southern border are, yes, it is a hostile invasion. The massive amount of people illegally entering our country is a direct danger to our sovereignty as a nation. The masses of criminals coming across the border are not just poor people looking for work. It's not families seeking refuge. It is a well-organized and funded invasion. Watch the news

videos, these people have not walked hundreds of miles to get to our border. The majority are wearing name brand shoes, decent clothing, and many are nowhere capable of walking hundreds of miles due to their obesity. Another alarming account is the massive number of lone men, not families. We also know that many are from the Middle East and are on the terrorist watch list. Yes, it is a hostile invasion! As far as the Chinese balloon, it should go without saying that was definitely a hostile act. China is our most dangerous adversary. They are buying our farm land and other natural resources at an alarming pace. Never should we as a country allow the enemy to purchase any land and invest in our technology. Not only are they buying out our coal mining and natural gas fields, they are now partnering with the Ford Motor Company.

It makes me wonder if Hunter and Joe are getting millions of dollars in kick-backs from this also. Biden's presidency is totally compromised with China and Ukraine. We are being invaded by hostile players and our government is aiding and comforting them. Treason abounds in Washington.

Do you remember the days, a few years ago, when the US economy was strong, inflation was 1.5%, gasoline was \$1.69 a gallon, there were no food shortages, we had the lowest unemployment ever, the stock market was rising, there were no funded wars, no threats from China, no Russian invasions and low illegal immigration? I sure miss those days.

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

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Sportsman's Sunday is a family focused event giving an opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate our Creator and His creation. There will be exciting things for every member of the family! We are offering a challenging Bible message from multi-time world and national turkey calling champion Mitchell Johnston from Dead End Game Calls, Godly music from Glory Quartet, free BBQ lunch, interactive booths, and prizes.

*"Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;" Genesis 27:3*

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# Love and Transformation

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



February is the month of love. We have just finished celebrating Valentine's Day. I am so thankful for my wife. We have been married since 2004. I honestly do not know how she has put up with me this long. When you ask the average person what they are looking for in a wife, there are typically three criteria that are given: chemistry, physical attraction and someone who will not try to change them. How do I know that these are the top three criteria? Because poll after poll reveals this to be true. My experience also confirms these criteria. Just listen to people talk, their conversations also confirm these criteria. The culture has a warped understanding of love.

When love is misunderstood, marriages cannot thrive or survive. Chemistry is important, but it is not ultimate. Physical attraction is important, but what about 10, 20, or 30 years into the marriage? Physical beauty weathers with time. What about the desire to have someone who doesn't want to change you? Do you mean to imply that they are perfect and do not need to be changed? The simple truth of the matter is that fallen and sinful creatures always need to be changing. What would have happened if I never changed since 2004? One of two things must have happened to me: I must have died or I am a social delinquent now. There are a lot of things that have needed to change in my life over the last 20 years.

Love is erotic and emotional, but real love is so much more than that. Real love involves feelings and commitments. Real love involves blood, sweat, and tears. Real love stands the test of time. A giant redwood is impressive because of its roots. These impressive trees have survived forest fires and lightning strikes. They still stand. Their roots are still strong. They still have life. Real love is like fine wine, it gets better with time. The outer beauty that is deceptive and fleeting, takes on another beauty that endures and gains greater beauty and appreciation with time.

Marriage is an excellent picture of the gospel. When we enter a covenant relationship with God through salvation. Does God want to leave us alone or does he want to change us?

When we are born again, God takes a wrecking ball to our lives. God is a wonderful potter and he is making a masterpiece out of our lives. God's ultimate purpose for our lives is to conform us into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29). God uses the Spirit, the power of the Scripture, the church, and our spouses to make us more like Jesus. God's means are not limited to the resources that I have mentioned above. God will use anything and everything to make us like Jesus. Real love leads to people to real change because we all really need to be changed. Real love will not settle for anything less. Love is a great gift that God gives to his Creation.

*Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.*

## True Faith Christian Fellowship 23<sup>rd</sup> Homecoming Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.



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# Sharing Valentines!



Sonshine Christian Academy served a grab and go breakfast to all families in their drop off line on the morning of February 14th as a way to say "We Love Our Families."

## CONGRATULATIONS, ANNA!

Hilliard High School senior Anna Buchanan has been invited to participate in the RepsOnReps North Florida All Star Classic Saturday, March 11 at Florida State College South Campus (FSCJ). The event will feature the top senior girls and boys basketball players in North Florida!

Congratulations, Anna!  
We are so proud of you!  
Big Dave & Mimi



## Nassau County Teen Court

Join us for Teen Court! Real Teenage offenders...Real Crimes...Real Court Sanctions handed down. All by Teen Attorneys, Jurors and Court Officers.

**Next Session: Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

We need you to volunteer to serve on our Jury today! Stay in touch by phone or emails! Sign-in between 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boys; and modest dress for girls. Court begins promptly at 6 p.m. and is over by 7 p.m. 3 Hours Community Service for each Court Session!

We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorney's in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team! Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy, the coordinator, at 904-548-4520 or email [nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com](mailto:nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com).

## Gateway to Life Ministries

Assemblies of God International Fellowship

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Psalm 45:1

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## Mission Conference 2023 at The Anchor Church of God

Missions have always been a top priority for Pastor Dwight Allen, Lead Pastor at The Anchor Church of God in Callahan. Missions for the Lord can come in many different ways: here in Callahan, in Florida, all over our country and in many different countries. Missions works because of the faithful giving of God's people to this special ministry. Through giving you provide: The gospel being preached; New churches planted; Orphans being cared for; Students educated; Ministers trained; and most of all, Salvations made! This coming Friday, the church will begin their 2023 Missions Conference with a Family Night for the entire community to enjoy. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the church located at 541798 US Highway 1, south of Callahan. Following the service, people will have the opportunity to meet and visit with the missionaries and enjoy the after party! There will be pizza, inflatables, Smore's, a bonfire, Ax Throwing and much more! It will be a time of fun and enjoyment for the entire family all at one convenient location.

The conference will continue on Sunday morning, at 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. (two service times) for morning

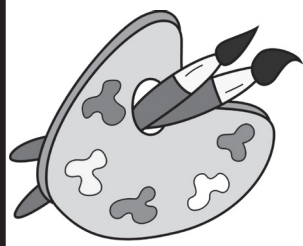
worship; 9:30 a.m. Breakfast; and 10 a.m. for Sunday school. The Sunday evening worship service will begin at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner following the service.

This is a special time to welcome and encourage these missionaries for the work they continue to do for the Lord. What an honor to be able to thank them for their incredible service away from their own homelands for the call of Christ. Missionaries that will be attending are: Alex & Leah Abiola of Nigeria, Africa; Hong & Esther Yang of China; Glen & Susie Anniskette of Australia; Janice McClung, Steven & Charlene Phipps, David & Sherry Addis, all in North America; Bobby & Tamitha Lynch, and Dr. Michael Mills, all of Ecuador; Terry & Beth Trussell of Uruguay; Manning & Jane Thornton, International Conferences; Jonathan & Daniela Augustine of Macedonia; Don Chavis of Romania; Dana Holloman of Ireland; and Chris & Kathy Swift of Belgium.

Make sure to attend Family Night Friday at 6:30 p.m. and the Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.; and evening 6 p.m.



### Senior Art Classes (55+)



at the Callahan Train Depot

★ Tuesday, March 7 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

★ Thursday, March 9 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Classes taught by Ed Mosher

Hosted by the West Nassau Historical Society.

Made possible in part by support from CSX and a grant from Arts and Culture Nassau.

Artworks will be displayed at our Ice Cream Social on Friday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Visit [www.wnhsfl.org](http://www.wnhsfl.org) to download an entry form or call 904-879-3406.

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<p><b>RIBS</b></p> <p><b>Baby Back or St. Louis Style</b></p> <p><b>\$2.99</b> lb.</p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</b></p> <p>Sliced the way you like it!</p> <p><b>\$4.99</b> lb.</p> <p>WHOLE OR HALF</p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p><b>Family Pack Fresh, Lean GROUND BEEF</b></p> <p><b>\$2.99</b> lb.</p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>10 lb. Bag LEG QUARTERS</b></p> <p><b>\$6.95</b></p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>
<p><b>OYSTERS!</b></p> <p><b>\$85</b> 50 LB. BUSHEL</p> <p><b>\$45</b> 1/2 BUSHEL</p> <p><b>\$25</b> PARTY BAG</p> <p>WE HAVE PINTS!</p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>Lite Pork SPARE RIBS</b></p> <p><b>\$1.99</b> lb.</p> <p>2-3 Pack</p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p><b>USDA Whole T-BONES</b></p> <p><b>\$4.95</b> lb.</p> <p>Cut the way you like!</p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>OX TAILS by the Case</b></p> <p><b>\$6.00</b> lb.</p> <p>\$90 15 lb. Box</p> <p>Expires 2-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>

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## NCSO Announces 2022 Employees of the Year



On Thursday, February 16, 2023, Sheriff Bill Leeper recognized members of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, who through their dedication and commitment to our community, have placed themselves in harm's way to ensure the safety of our citizens. Who through their experience, have saved a life of a citizen, or through their exceptional and outstanding service, ensure the quality of life all of us have come to expect living in Nassau County. Several individuals were recognized as employees of the year and some were presented 2022 Life-Saving Awards.

2022 Volunteer of the Year James Dionne, Sr.; 2022 Civilian Employee of the Year Tina Barnett; 2022 Communications Officer of the Year Morgan Waller; 2022 Detention Deputy of the Year Aislinn Goldsmith; 2022 Patrol Deputy of the Year Henry Holmberg; and 2022 Supervisor of the Year Sergeant Brian Higginbotham.

2022 Life-Saving Awards were given to: Deputy Robert Jackson – August 29, 2022; Deputy Jacob Hall August 29, 2022; and Deputy Philip Hagan October 8, 2022. Not pictured is the NCSO 2022 Investigator of the Year, due to this individual working undercover.

### FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

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

Callahan First Baptist Church 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan  
Thursday, March 2 • 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Save the Date!*

## FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS FAIR

Saturday, March 4 from 2 - 6 p.m.

All Coverage Insurance Solutions, Tina Haddock with Mav Realty, and Jeannie Phanthourath your Local Mortgage Professional, are hosting a First Time Home Buyers Fair at Sweet as Cyn Coffee House and Donuts, located at 542432 US Highway 1, Callahan on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 2 - 6 p.m.

Food trucks, Groovy Grillers & More, Susie's Sugar Shoppe and That Coffee Chic, are confirmed to be on-site for this fun and informative event. Any additional food trucks interested in participating should contact Sweet as Cyn at 904-879-6698. Nassau County Animal Services will also be joining the event with eligible pets looking for a new loving home.

There will be raffles and a Free Home Buyers' class at 3 p.m. with plenty of time for all of your questions!

Class participation is required for raffle entry. Free raffle tickets will be given to all attending students. Guest field expert speakers for the class include local mortgage lenders, realtors, experienced home builders, home inspectors and insurance agents to help guide you on your next property purchase experience.

Whether you are a first-time buyer or a seasoned property owner, buying a home can be stressful and this event is just what you are looking for. The purpose of this fair and class is to inform you on how to navigate the process to make your buying experience easier. After our class you will have the confidence to find your next perfect home. This family friendly and educational event is one not to miss!

SAVE THE DATE: First Time Home Buyers Fair, Saturday, March 4 from 2-6 p.m.!

### FRIENDS OF NRA GUN RAFFLE

Nassau County Friends of NRA event will be held Saturday, March 11 at 5 p.m. at the Camp Sorenson on CR 121 in Hilliard. If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets or a table for our event, call Karen at 904-903-9552 or email her at ncfra01@gmail.com.

Gun Raffle: \$20 per ticket for a chance to win: 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.

WINNER TAKES ALL! Tickets are available at the Westside Journal office in Callahan.

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**SHOW 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

# Callahan High School Class of 1968 Reunion Held



The Callahan High School Class of 1968 held their 55th Year Class Reunion Saturday at The Pig restaurant in Callahan. This class was the last graduating class from Callahan High School as West Nassau High School was in the process of being built.

through a whole lot together in our years. Awesome lady.”

Class members present were: Bobby Flynn, Randy Cravey, Lawrence Conner, Sandy Hampton, Niel Hampton, Brenda Hunt, Dianne Combs, Janice Singley, Susan Kluge, Carol Emmi Braddock, Dale Braddock, Joann Green, Lynn Todd, Kerry Davis, Vicky Wright Witty, Carol Griffin Snow, Sharon Gardner, Jo Murray Arbogast, Lamar McMichaels, Tommy Edwards and Barbara Lundin.

Class member Barbara Lundin shared her thoughts of the get together, “Well, another year has come and gone since we've all been together. My high school graduation class of 1968 Callahan reunion. What a wonderful time we had together, as always! Out of a class of 48 members, 21 attended and 12 have passed away. Attending also were two of our teachers, Mrs. Delores Long and Coach Jim Stearn and his wife Julia. What a blessing they have been in our lives. Julia was the reason I became a Dental Assistant in 1967. We've been



Mrs. Delores Long



Coach Jim and Julia Stearn

**RETIRED FLAG REMINDER**  
 Spring is approaching! Is your American flag looking tattered and torn? Why not replace it today with a new one! Retired flags may be brought to the Westside Journal office for proper disposal.

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**March 2, 2023**  
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**COMMUNITY YARD SALE, SATURDAY, 8:30 a.m.** until? McKendree Drive, south of Callahan off US 1! Some homes will be open Friday.

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**HELP NEEDED FOR RESIDENTIAL LAWCARE** at my home in Bryceville. Call and leave a message, 304-918-8882. 22323

**FULLTIME ELECTRICAL FOREMAN & HELPER** needed with options of 4-10 hour days. 401k and insurance options. Starting pay depending on experience. Email resume to: chendry@hendryelectrical.net or call 904-314-2544 for more information. tfn

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**LAMB EARLY EDUCATION CENTER,** in Fernandina, is seeking 2 full-time TEACHERS and a part-time assistant to our staff to assist with our growing population. Applicants should love to work with children and desire a stable and exciting work environment. The DCF childcare classes are required to be completed one year after start date. Pay is competitive and is based on experience. Starting Pay: \$16 - \$20 and increases based on experience and education; paid time off; Sick Pay; Fixed daytime, weekday schedule; Dependent care assistance; On the job training. To apply email Renee Wise, Lamb Director at lamb@mumconline.com or call 904-261-5301. 31623

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# Climate Change is Worse, Because of Idiots!

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

"Give me Liberty, I've already got death!" Those were the words that were printed on a sign in what was supposed to be a model community, outside Niagara Falls, NY. But because of a relatively small (Hooker Chemical) landfill, that leached deadly toxins into the ground, the entire community of Love Canal had to be eventually abandoned back in the late 1970s. It became one of the first areas to receive the benefits of an EPA Superfund for clean-up. Did it work? No, Love Canal is still a ghost town today and will never be re-occupied again.

After all that has been said and done, East Palestine, Ohio, is now experiencing the same issues and we're watching it all unfold at break neck speed. Unlike Love Canal, where the issues were experienced over a long period of time, we're seeing this happen in daily episodes that get worse by the hour. Caused by a train derailling, rather than control the concerns and determine a best course of action, the officials elected to make it worse by dumping the (unknown contents at the time) chemical cargo into a burn pit and setting it on fire. All this after our president had railed against (an amusing description) the masses about environmental issues that are "Killing" our people and the good earth.

After that action, more and more new revelations about what chemicals were actually on that train, and burned, were identified. People in the community of East Palestine have the same concerns and problems developing in just days that were experienced by the citizens of Love Canal over several years. Animals are dying, fish are dying, birds have disappeared, people are getting sick and those, who can live in their homes, are experiencing conditions that continue to jeopardize their health concerns.

The Norfolk-Southern, EPA and Government officials are all telling people that it's alright, but they still can't tell people just what chemicals were in those cars or what the cocktail creation was, when they were all mixed together and set on fire. The Secretary of Transportation be-littles it all, because

there are "thousands of train de-railings every year." FEMA won't be bothered to investigate or provide assistance because there are "no damages to be found." EPA can't be bothered, because Ohio is monitoring it all. The Chemical Companies haven't yet come clean with just "what was on that train" and we have a president that can't even mention it, or be questioned about it. But he'll be glad to inform us all that we need to cease using gas stoves, internal combustion engines, coal fired power stations and natural gas in order to facilitate a reasonable cost of living.

Think about this, we didn't have any of these Climate concerns until we eliminated leaded gas, mandated catalytic converters and began destroying perfectly good forests in order put in "Solar Panels" and "Wind Generators." The idiots all forgot that the best "Climate Control" systems we have are The Trees! They cool the planet, regenerate CO2 to Oxygen and, as a renewable resource, provide building materials that make housing affordable. Fields of Solar Panels and Wind Generators do nothing but provide a minimal amount of power and generate a huge amount of reflective heat back into the atmosphere thus (wait for it) increasing the temperatures that we're trying to lower.

But then inquiring reporters and citizens are just being rude, for continuing to ask questions that demand answers! This, all from a man that embraces our Open Borders permitting thousands of pounds of fentanyl that can, and does, poison our own citizens. Probably the best revelations that have come from all this are from the city of East Palestine, itself. It's 95% Caucasian, the median income is only about 40K (about 60% of the population make less than that), very few African Americans, nearly no LGBTQ populace, 25% of households don't own a car and they voted 70% conservative in the last election. Good Luck, you're on your own! This, from the man who is the president for "EVERYBODY!" By the way, Hilliard and Callahan have major railroad lines running through them.

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**KEVIN W. COLEMAN**



Mr. Kevin W. Coleman, 78, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully Thursday, February 16 at his home surrounded by his loved ones. Kevin was a native of Great Britain, a past resident of Ettrick, Virginia; Schenectady, New York; Middleburg, Pensacola and lastly Hilliard.

Kevin was born on February 14, 1945 to Emily Coleman and William Coleman of London, England.

He was a loving and devoted husband, brother, uncle and father. Kevin joined the US Navy and served from 1963 - 1987 serving 24 years. He also worked for the Nassau County Sheriff's Department and had a long career with Amerigas, he was often referred to as the "gasman." Following retirement, he spent much of his time fishing, going to casinos and being a loving husband, father and grandparent. He dedicated time with helping at the American Legion in Hilliard where he made many great friendships. He will be missed by all. Kevin is preceded in death by his parents William Coleman and Emily Coleman; two sisters Eileen McLaughlin and Lillian Coleman; and wife Leslie Coleman.

He is survived by his loving wife, Stephanie Coleman of Hilliard; two daughters Lisa Coleman of Pensacola and Kelly (John) Roberts of Hilliard; as well as stepchildren Barbara Smith, David Phillips, Tammy Hurd and Samantha Conner; sister-in-law Kathy Weldon; Geraldine Macarages; brother-in-law Jack (Gloria) Sullivan; 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A graveside memorial service with full military honors will be held at a later date at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at: [www.Crevassesimplecremation.com](http://www.Crevassesimplecremation.com).

# OBITUARIES

**GEORGE HARVEY FAIRCLOTH**



George Harvey Faircloth, 70, of Hilliard, passed away on February 20, 2023, surrounded by his family and Pastor, to the tune of Southern Gospel music. He was born on March 1, 1952, in Jacksonville, to Wilson Faircloth, Sr. and Betty Hodges Faircloth. George was a member of First Baptist Church of Boulougne. He loved attending services there and worshipping his Lord and Savior. George served as a deputy for 27 years at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office. Ten of those years, George was able to find his passion working with students at West Nassau High School as the Resource Officer. George enjoyed spending time with his family and cheering for the Florida Gators. He was a loving husband, father, and Papa who will be missed dearly. We never understand God's plan in the moment. George's stroke almost 9 years ago has served to remind us that God's plans are always perfect. We know George's testimony touched all who encountered him.

George is survived by his loving wife, Sabrina Faircloth; sons Wade (Ansley) Faircloth and Jacob (Sarah) Faircloth; daughters Crystal (Marshall) Thomas and Megan (Zach) Obermiller; brothers Wilson (Karen) Faircloth and Bill (Dale) Faircloth; mother-in-law Kitty Smiley; grandchildren Ava Faircloth, Nolan Faircloth, Fallon Faircloth, Esther Thomas, Cora Thomas, Jackson Faircloth and Charlotte Grace Faircloth who will be arriving in July.

A celebration of George's life will be held Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Boulougne with Bro. Paul Lucas officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**RUSSELL F. HIGGINBOTHAM**



Russell "Rusty" Frederick Higginbotham, 66, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away Thursday, February 16, 2023 at his residence. He was born August 9, 1956 in Folkston, to the late Cecil F. Higginbotham and Jean Opal Grooms Higginbotham. He was a 1975 graduate of Charlton County High School. He was employed with St. Regis Paper Company for many years and was a member of Camp Pinckney Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Dottie Higginbotham; five children Kristy Conway, Mark Wheeler, Heidi (Tim) Brown, Holly (Wally) Flack and Bridgette (Thomas) Wilson; sister Wanda (Jimmy) Conner; brother Terry (Tanya) Higginbotham of Hilliard; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; aunt Cornelia Huggins; uncle Walter (Willene) Duggan; best friend Michel Smith; and several other extended family members and friends.

A private graveside service will be planned at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.shepardrobersonfh.com](http://www.shepardrobersonfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline Doss Kawchak; and two sons Gabriel Kawchak and Brian Waters.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, February 22 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home.

Condolences may be expressed by signing the guest registry at [www.shepardrobersonfh.com](http://www.shepardrobersonfh.com). Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

**THERESA SHAW**



Theresa Shaw, 62, of Callahan, passed away February 16, 2023, after fighting a long battle with cancer. She was born on August 3, 1960 in Jacksonville, to the late Nolan Miller and Mildred Revels Miller. Theresa has been a resident of Callahan since 1984. She worked as a caregiver and loved serving and helping others. She had a great sense of humor and a huge, giving heart. Theresa did not meet a stranger and went out of her way to talk to people and made sure everyone felt like family. She loved spending time with her family especially her grandchildren who called her "BopBop." Theresa was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend that will be dearly missed.

Theresa leaves behind her loving husband of 44 years, David Shaw; sons Donald (Dawn) Shaw and Phillip (Melissa) Shaw; brothers Keith (Tammy) Miller and Joseph Miller; sister Dana Tittle; grandchildren Haleigh Shaw, Jacob Shaw, Abigail Shaw, Tyler Shaw, Mason Batten and Major Batten; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A celebration of Theresa's life was held Wednesday, February 22 at Nassau Funeral Home. The family received friends Tuesday, February 21 at the funeral home.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**MICHAEL KAWCHAK, JR.**



Michael Kawchak, Jr., 75, of Callahan, passed away on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. He was born June 23, 1947 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to the late Michael Kawchak, Sr. and Mildred Martin Kawchak. Michael was a member of Rivers Edge Church in Hilliard and the Beekeepers Association. In addition to his parents; he is preceded in death by his son Joseph Kawchak; and a brother Donald James "Jim" Kawchak.

**Obituaries are published free of charge.**

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## Callahan Garden Club News



At their February meeting, the Callahan Garden Club members celebrated its 82nd Anniversary with a birthday cake! At their upcoming meeting, Wednesday, March 1, the club will feature guest speaker Connie Gladding. Ms. Gladding is a board member of the NE Florida Daylily Society and the District IV Director of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. She will be speaking on daylilies and will be sharing information on their care and cultivation. In addition, Ms. Gladding will be presenting some new daylily varieties and one lucky person may be able to take one home.

The Callahan Garden Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at 45251 Fourth Avenue in Callahan. Visitors and those wishing to join the Garden Club are welcome to attend. Please join us, you will be inspired!

## Hilliard Pauses on Rate Increase

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final meeting of February. The first order of business was a discussion on the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 & Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Water & Sewer Fund Financial Reports that was requested by the council concerning the water/sewer increase. Town Clerk Lisa Purvis advised the council with the report that Fiscal Year 2021/2022, expenditures were under revenues by \$11,250; and Fiscal Year 2022/2023 expenditures were (over) revenues by \$51,557; Water & Sewer Rates increased by 11.40% effective July 2, 2022. Currently the town is considering an 8.01% increase for this year. The agenda had Resolution 2023-05 to approve or disapprove of increasing the rates however the agenda item was deleted due to the Town Code states the amending the water & sewer rates must be amended by resolution.

After further investigation, Town Attorney Christian Waugh found that the Town Charter states these changes must be done by Ordinance. There was no vote on increasing the water & sewer rates until possibly the next meeting in March.

In other business, the council authorized the delivery of Non-Binding Letters of Intent to purchase the property adjacent to the north end of the Hilliard Airpark.

The council approved a payable of \$7,005 to Court Services for the Oxford Street Park Phase IV of the FRDAP Grant. This is for repairs on the basketball court and add one set of pickleball lines to the court.

The council also approved paying town hall employees and public work employees for 4 hours to work during the Hilliard Town Clean-Up event.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m.

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## Bluegrass Benefit Sing Friday

A benefit Bluegrass sing will be held this Friday, February 24 at 7 p.m. for Matt Clark and his family. The event will be held at Boulogne Holiness Church, 241854 CR 121, Hilliard. The bluegrass sing will include musical guest: Headin Home; and local church singers. It will be a wonderful night of music.

A generous love offering will be received to bless the Clark family during Brother Matt's extensive illness. Matt has been diagnosed with Marfan Syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that is hereditary. His father passed away from it in 1991 at the age of 27, as he didn't know he had it until he was already dying. Matt had a complete aortic dissection in 2020 from his collar bone all the way down to his leg, which was surgically grafted to save his life. Later, the graft became infected and had to be removed and his aorta was replaced with prosthetics. In October 2022, an infection was discovered that



is resistant to all antibiotics and attaches to prosthetic materials. He is still on antibiotics and gets daily infusions at home. While hospitalized for the infection, he had three brain bleeds that required three separate brain surgeries to fix. He and his wife Jessica have two daughters, Gracie (10) and Lillie (8). Jessica's family also sing gospel music in the area, The Combs Family. All donations will go directly to the family to assist in medical expenses for his care. Brother Matt is the brother of David Clark, music minister for the church.



Boulogne Holiness Church will also hold a Revival beginning Sunday, February 26 – Saturday, March 4. The revival speaker will be Bro. Chuck Bennett. The Revival service times are Sunday 6 p.m.; Monday – Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcomed to attend both events!

## New Beginnings and Milestones



### Rosie-Jean Baldwin

Big sister, Olivia, is elated to share the birth of her sister Rosie-Jean Baldwin. Her proud parents are Seth and Alexis Baldwin of Callahan.

Rosie-Jean was born Friday, January 27, 2023 at 3:53 a.m. at Baptist Hospital Jacksonville. She weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and measured 20 ¼ inches.



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