

VOLUME XX ISSUE 27

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

"YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES; YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP RUNS OVER." - PSALM 23:5

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Hopeful for 2025

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of February. The first order of business was a discussion concerning the expansion of the Tourism Development Tax. Mr. Gil Langley, representing Nassau Tourism, was on hand to answer any questions from the council. "You may ask, how does the tourism tax help the west side residents? Currently, west side residents don't get to vote on the tourism tax," said Langley. "Allowing us to expand gives the west side municipalities the option to apply for grant money to pay for assistance or events in your towns. Just a reminder, local residents do not pay for the tourism tax. This tax is paid by tourists and visitors staying at hotels, bed & breakfasts, rentals, etc., unless you stay in a local hotel. The tourism tax will be a referendum on the November ballot."

Per the Nassau tourism works website: Tourism employs 36% of all Nassau County jobs; generates nearly \$1 Billion in economic impact; provides 28.3% of the county's GDP annually (direct spending); contributes over \$23 million annually in property tax; pays for over \$1.2 million annually in beach rehabilitation project; and keeps restaurants, shops and small businesses open, providing good jobs while supporting over 30 special events enhancing quality of life for locals.

The council adopted Resolution 2024-02, to support the expansion of Tourism Development Tax to the Town of Hilliard.

Public Works Director Joel Hall P.E. requested approval for a capital purchase of a Battle Armor Designs 2022 Culvert Cleaner Package that includes a 3' bucket mount and 2 culvert cleaner extensions for a total of \$5,695. "This piece of equipment will be very useful for us to use. You can straddle the culvert and help to clean the culvert better," said Hall. The council approved the purchase.



advised the council about the possibility of securing the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to visit. "I am asking for the council's support to pay the \$1,000 deposit to secure our spot for having The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to come in 2025," said Beasley. "We are partnering with local veteran groups. We also hope to partner with Callahan and the county for funding. The total cost will be \$5,000. Because of the size of the wall, I have talked with the Northeast Florida Fair Association about bringing it to the fairgrounds."

Beasley advised that the wall would

be in our area for 5-6 days and would require lodging for 2 people, as well as volunteers to watch it 24/7 while it's here. "We would just like to put a deposit to hold us a spot for next year," added Beasley.

The council approved the \$1,000 deposit for The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall.

The next item concerned for the council to consider approval of Land Acquisition Contract purchase land at the north end of the Hilliard Airpark with funds being reimbursed by FAA & FDOT grant funds and Hilliard Aviation, Inc. funds. "The land is the three parcels of land to purchase at the north end of the airpark," said Town Clerk Lisa Purvis. "The landowners have until February 9 to make a decision. May 9 has been chosen for the closing on the property. Hilliard Aviation has asked if the town could loan them half of their portion, \$67,000, and they will make lump sum payments each year for five years." The council approved the land acquisition contract.

The council approved a donation to Keep Nassau Beautiful in the amount of \$2,000 for their assistance for the Hilliard Town Clean Up.

In closing comments, Hilliard resident Jon Hart addressed the council that since October 5, 2023, he has been asking and getting information on a possible right-of-way on his property. "I have paid \$400 and \$75 for different items concerning this property but still have no answers," said Hart. "I am very disappointed with the town and how this has drug on and I still don't know anything. I do want to say Land Use Administrator Lee Anne Wollitz has been so helpful during this process."

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, February 15 at 7 p.m.

Callahan Restructuring Volunteer Fire Department

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of February. The first business item was a presentation from representatives of the Women of Influence Club from West Nassau High School. "We are here representing the Women of Influence Club of West Nassau High School. Our club is a student leadership club which each year has been supported by the formerly American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Eight Flags Chapter, that has now been rebranded as the Nassau Women's Professional

Organization (WOI)," shared Taylor Bass and Abigail Cartrette. "The WOI is currently planning the 3rd Annual Influencing the Future Dinner/ Auction Fundraiser to help offer college scholarships for deserving young women who are graduating from West Nassau this spring and are active members of the club. In the last two years, thanks to the contributions and donations the WOI has been able to send five young women to college with a total of \$25,000 in scholarships. We appreciate and thank the Town of Callahan for your previous donations

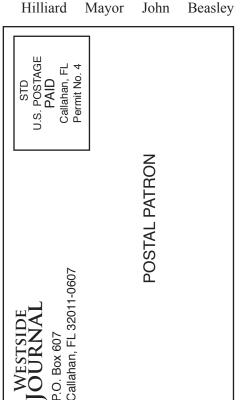
and ask for your support again this year. The Influencing the Future Dinner will be held Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. at the Golf Club of Amelia Island Ritz Carlton Ballroom."

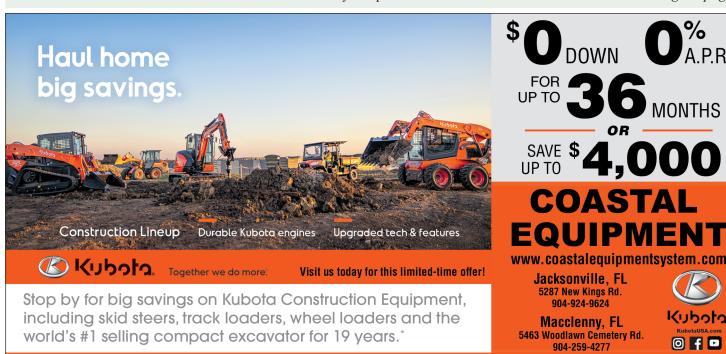
The council unanimously approved a donation of \$500 to the club.

The next order of business was the approval of Resolution 2024-R01 that concerned supporting the Tourism Development Tax Expansion. "I am here representing the Nassau Tourism Council. We are asking all municipalities to support the Tourism See 'Callahan Restructuring' on page 2

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Callahan Restructuring

Development Tax Expansion that will be a Referendum on the November ballot," said Gil Langley. "Currently, most of the 5% bed tax is collected from Amelia Island and some from the Yulee area. The bed tax is paid through visitors and vacationers that travel to Nassau County and stay in our hotels, motels, bed & breakfast, RV parks for travelers that are staying less than 6 months, etc. There are monies available for you (Callahan) to apply for to use for upgrades in your town for parks, roads, etc. This tax can benefit everyone. We are asking for your support." The

The next item concerned a capital expense from the Public Works Department. "We are desperately in need of a new backhoe. Our current one is a 1995 model," said Town Manager Mike Williams. "We have found one at Caterpillar and were allowed to test it out before purchase. The backhoe is a 2020 with only 700 hours on it. It has been thoroughly checked over. The cost is \$90,000 and this is a budgeted item. I am requesting approval to make the purchase." The council approved the purchase.

council approved the resolution.

In closing comments, Mayor Randy

Continued from page 1

Knagge advised the council that there will be a Nassau County Economic Development Board meeting in our conference room at the fire station (Callahan) Thursday, February 15 from 9-11 a.m. "I also wanted to tell you that myself and Fire Commissioner and Council President Ken Bass have decided to restructure the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department," said Knagge. "CVFD Chief Mike Guinn and Assistant Chief Larry Downey have been relieved of their duties. Mr. Bass will assume those responsibilities as we post the positions."

Guinn has served with the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department for over 25 years; and Downey has served in the department for over 15 years.

Also in closing comments, Williams added, "I have found a new generator for the fire station at a cost of around \$28,000. The cost to repair the old one will be around \$29,000, so it makes sense to purchase the new one. I hope to have a final update for you (council) at our next meeting.

The next meeting of the council will be Tuesday, February 20 at 7 p.m. due to the Presidents' Day holiday.

Letters to the Editor

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

Honoring a Hero

Dear Editor,

I am writing this today to recognize and honor a brave teen for having the courage to do the right thing even in the face of danger. Recently, a friend of mine's daughter, for her protection, overheard a student in her private school stating what weapons he would use in different classrooms to attack the school and then told his friends not to come to school the next day.

Very concerned at overhearing this, the student reported this to the school office, but the threat was not taken seriously. When she reported it to her parents, they immediately confronted the upper school administration, and then notified law enforcement when the threat continued to not be taken seriously, thereby preventing a potential tragedy. Sadly, even after the threat was confirmed (the student later said he was joking), the student only received a slap on the wrist and was allowed to return to school, while the school

punished the student and her mother who worked there as a teacher, by attempting to expel her, and terminating her mother from her job for "insubordination" and "becoming a threat to the upper administration" for reporting the real threat to law enforcement.

Scripture makes it clear, "...that he that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord." Proverbs 17:15.

This student was the only one among several of her peers that day that did the right thing in the face of danger. Her actions saved lives and for that we are grateful for her courage. She was also recently recognized by her father's military command for her personal courage to do what was right in the face of fear and danger in order to stop evil.

Thank you for your courage. We need more teens like you who are not afraid to do the right, hard things when needed.

Local NHS Students Collect Food



Sonshine Christian Academy's National Honor Society group collected over 115 pounds of food for the Crossroads Church food bank. Items collected are served to Callahan families in need on a weekly basis.

Chapter Co-Leader Ivy Darby, worked diligently to plan, produce materials and delegate critical tasks to her fellow NHS members. Sonshine is proud of the entire NHS chapter for dedicating their efforts to our community and for upholding the NHS leadership and service pillars.

Shown are Chaplin and Secretary Sarah Beth Thomas and Co-Leader Ivy Darby.

In the Kitchen...

2 cloves garlic, minced, or more to taste

One-Pan Creamy Orzo

1 tablespoon butter 1 1/2 cups chicken broth 3/4 cup orzo pasta

1/4 cup heavy cream

1/2 cup freshly shredded Parmesan cheese

Melt butter in a heavy skillet over medium heat. Add orzo and toast, stirring, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in garlic; reduce heat to medium-low. Add chicken broth, 1/2 cup at a time. Simmer, stirring frequently, until broth is absorbed, about 8 minutes. Once broth is absorbed, stir in cream. Add cheese; stir until cheese melts into the creamy sauce.

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Dawn West Publisher Roger WestOwner/Reporter Jessie Pickett.....Graphic Designer

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1-904-530-6356 or email: david.hebert@ufl.edu.

The Importance of Living Roots in Soil

Soil is a mixture of particles that includes sand, plant tissue, clay, and other elements and organisms. Much of the mixture remains intact in the lower parts of the soil (12" down), however, in the top part of the soil profile (4-6" down), the soil can experience flooding, wind, plowing, and trampling. This is where living plant roots can help keep the soil particles bound together and set in place.

Dig a hole about 10-12" down and about 10" across. This will allow you to visualize the "health" of your soil more easily. After digging the hole, clean off the shovel and take a 2" slice

off the side of the hole and bring it into the sunlight. You should see many fine root hairs extending from the top of the soil all the way down. As opposed to extracting soil with a corer the shovel method makes soil health visualization easier. (NRCS CEMA 216).

Living roots help tie the larger soil particles together into aggregates. You should have enough roots to where you can see bits of soil being held and tangled together. This is called "aggregate stability" and it is a key indicator of whether or not your soil will wash away in a flood or blow away in a heavy wind.

Trail Toward Destiny Book Series

You might have seen them around town if you've attended a Flying G Rodeo or at The Ranch at Trader's Hill. Hilliard residents, Phyllis and Harry Godwin, are the Cowboys for Christ Chaplains for Northeast Florida.

Phyllis is the author of the

Christian, historical fiction, romance book series, Trail Toward Destiny, a three-part novel: Trail Toward Destiny, On Destiny's Trail, and At Destiny's Door. The series covers the journey of newlyweds Grace and Mark Peterson as they travel the Oregon Trail and



build their wilderness homestead in Willamette Valley, Oregon. Each of the three books are available on Amazon and have earned five-star ratings: "Written wonderfully with a lot of twists and turns totally unexpected." "My daughter and I were hanging on every

word. It was such a sweet love story." "It was very well written and captivated my attention from the beginning."

A book signing event is being planned for the Hilliard Library. Details will be released soon.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

As we sit around talking about how bad things are now in the world, I have news for all of us. The world hasn't seen anything as compared to which is coming. Let me preface that statement with this, Jesus is real and when He said He will come back to earth and take His followers to Heaven for eternity, He meant every word of it. One day and I feel soon, the great Rapture is going to be fulfilled.

In the Book of Revelation, it describes what will happen on earth after the Rapture, and may I say you don't want to be here. To compare earth as it is now with what it will be like after the Rapture, we are living in Mr. Rogers' neighborhood. Life is going to be so horrid, people are going to be begging for death to escape the atrocities they will be facing.

In the book of Revelation, Chapter 6, it describes four colored horses appearing, depending on which version of the Bible you read the first horse will be white and will symbolize the coming antichrist masquerading as the Messiah. However, after three and a half years, he will show his true colors. The red horse takes peace from the entire world and likely a nuclear war, the black horse

and the green (pale) horses symbolize famine and plague.

If you look at the many flags that fly over Mid-Eastern Islamic controlled countries you will quickly see a startling resemblance of their flags. The colors used are white, red, black and green. The flag colors mimic the horses that will appear and wreak havoc on earth. Much like they do now but multiple times worse. The only way to escape this certain apocalypse is to accept Christ as your Savior so you are not present when this occurs. Today would be a great day to do so!

As we await the rapture, it is our duty to strive every day to improve our lives and our situations we all have created. The state of our country does not fall solely on Joe Biden; it actually falls on the backs of the voters and the cheaters in this country. If the Lord tarries His coming, it is paramount that "We the People" ban together in droves as never seen before and vote for the sovereignty of our Republic. This is not the time to be disgruntled about personalities and mean statements. It is time for a true patriot.

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

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Country Star Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of each month at The Anchor Church in Callahan at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

The West Nassau Genealogical Society meets the second Monday of each month at the Callahan Lions Club at 10:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome!

The Federated Republican Women of Nassau (FRWN) will host Alyson McCullough at their luncheon Friday, February 9 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club, Bill Melton Rd. Reservations are required: RSVP by text/call 937-241-7777.

West Nassau High School SAC meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 3:15 p.m. in the media center.



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Will You Dance Before the Lord?

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



Some of us enjoy dancing and we can use that talent or gift for the glory of God. It's an outward celebration on how we feel in our spirit and we want to use our body as a tool to dance before the Lord. It is important to remember that God put that desire in our heart. Our bodies are the temple of God and we can use movement to worship and give praise to God our father. Dancing can be as simple as swaying while listening to your favorite praise song. You may enjoy moving your feet up and down and a rapid motion while your hands are raised in the air.

There's no one way that one can celebrate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through dancing, it's our relationship with God. It's personal and individual, if God has put a flame in our heart to praise him and worship him through dance, let's take that opportunity to do so. Our God is overflowing with love and grace in abundance of goodness through our talents that we can worship and praise him. In Psalm 149:3, it supports that very desire that God has placed in our heart to dance before the Lord; "Let them praise his name in the dance: Let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp."

2 Samuel 6:14-22, we see where David danced before the Lord, with all his might providing us with an example of what it truly means to surrender To God in worship. 2 Samuel 6:14-16, "And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart."

We all have different reasons for dancing before the Lord. For some, God has delivered them from drugs, alcohol, and other things; because God allowed our children to come back home and receive the gift of salvation; or perhaps God's healing hand touched our body from illness and we feel like giving God the praise through dancing before him.

Over and over, God has turned our morning into dancing. "Oh Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning ... You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise vou and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever." Psalm 30:3-6, 11-12

Miriam led Israelite women in dancing to celebrate their deliverance and victory over their enemies. Exodus 15:20-21, "And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."

David danced before the Lord when they brought back the Ark of the Covenant. Each day brings on a new day for dancing. When we cry out to the Lord, he hears our cry, and he delivers us from all of our troubles. Oh Lord, our God, we will give you thanks and praise forever. Amen. There's great benefit in praising God through dancing, as it's an expression of our spirit. Let's get going, embrace the rhythm of life and dance with joy to God, our father as we celebrate our deliverance and victory over our enemies.

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NOTICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND/OR PARTY CHANGE DEADLINE FOR THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MARCH 19, 2024

Applications for a new voter registration and/or party change must be submitted by:

>>> FEBRUARY 20, 2024 (((

Your signature in your voter record is used to verify your signature on your vote-by-mail ballot. At the polling place, your ID and signature verify you are registered. You must complete a Florida Voter Registration

Application form to update your signature or change your party. Call our office for assistance or visit www.

Grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

The great-grandparents of 'Buffalo Bill' Cody were Philip Cody and Abigail Emerson. This Emerson family of New England also were ancestors of Presidents Fillmore and Taft.

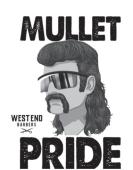
James Butler Hickok, better known as 'Wild Bill' Hickok, a cousin four times removed of former President Bush, was descended from the Butler Doggett and Mayhew families of Martha's Vineyard, of John Robinson of Leyden and from the Dwights of Northampton, ancestors of four presidents of Yale, the first ladies Ellen Wilson and Nancy Reagan.

These relationships are not rare. You may have a famous relative in your family history! Let us show you how to search for this information and learn a little about our history along the way.

To learn more, join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club. Visitors are always welcome!

Mullet Contest Hosted by Westend Barbers

Westend Barbers is hosting a Mullet Contest. Start growing yours now so you can be a part of the contest. Contestants are asked to come out and show your best mullet on Friday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. Open to men, women and children to show off their mullets. Enjoy food, refreshments, prizes, trophies and bragging rights for the top mullets! The event will be held Friday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Westend Barbers, 450061 SR 200, Ste. 4 (beside Junior's Seafood).



CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville, monthly Gospel Sing featuring The Combs Family & The Gospel Sounds will be held Friday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will follow!

Bethany Episcopal Church, located across from Hilliard Town Hall, will hold Shrove Tuesday Pancake Social from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13. There is no cost. Ash Wednesday service will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

FREE WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY DINNER 5 p.m. • Callahan Methodist Church • Walk up Located beside Callahan Elementary School

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Callahan Masonic Lodge Installs Officers for 2024



In January, Brother Don Nichols was installed as Worshipful Master for Callahan Masonic Lodge No. 32 for the 2024 Masonic Year. Right Worshipful Al Martinez was Installing Officer for the Officer Installation. As Brother Martinez introduced each man, he described his office and also the emblems which denote each office. Each new officer was then escorted to his new position in the Lodge Room by

Installing Marshal and Past Master Brian Jahay. Right Worshipful Martinez also presented the new Worshipful Master, Don Nichols, a hat, another symbolic emblem of Masonic Leadership.

Shown (l to r) are: Paul Potrok, Billy Taylor, George Spicer, Chase Taylor, Brian Jahay, Don Nichols, Jeff Wood, John Wayne Nelson, Dalton Hood, Gary Burchfield, Tom Siebers and Glen

MOAA Meeting Tuesday

The Nassau County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will have Capt. Ed Turner, USN (Ret), Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial



and Museum as the guest speaker for their monthly meeting Tuesday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Fernandina Beach Golf Club. The National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum mission is to honor all former prisoners of war and to remember the more than 80,000 service members still listed as missing in action and unaccounted for since December 7, 1941, as well as the families who seek their return. It is located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field. To make, change or cancel your reservation, please contact Paul Booton by email at: pbooton@comcast.net.



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The Florida Baptist Convention Mobile Dental Unit will be at the Northeast Florida Baptist Association building at 851035 US Highway 1, Yulee, February 26th - March 1st offering free dental care (fillings & extractions only) to those without dental insurance.

To make an appointment, you must come in person February 19 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., to the Northeast Florida Baptist Association, 851035 US Highway 1, Yulee. Medical, financial screening and appointments for clients will be held that day only, on a first come first serve basis. Patients must be 18 and older to be seen. Only clients that are in need of fillings or extractions (teeth pulled) are seen on the Mobile Dental Unit. No cleanings, dentures or oral surgery will be provided.

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Gray Gables Baptist Church 54031 Church Rd. • Callahan Monday, February 12 • 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Callahan First Baptist Church 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan Thursday, February 15 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.



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New Beginnings and Milestones



Fames Branch Whitley

Joshua and Jesse Whitley, of Folkston, are proud to announce the birth of their son James Branch Whitley. James was born January 10, 2024 at 7:01 p.m. at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville. He weighed 8 pounds and measured 21 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Donald Miller and Jennifer Whitley of Bryceville.

Maternal grandparents are Chris and Mandy White of Hilliard.

Proud great-grandparents are Cindy Blinson of Fernandina Beach; Nancy Nelms; Lorie Whitley and Tommy Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. Torin Schonta

Lauren Weathington and Torin Schonta were united in marriage June 11, 2023 at 5 p.m. at Club Continental in Orange Park. The bride is the daughter of Will and Joanne Weathington of Callahan. She is employed with LW Film & Photography.

The groom is the son of Tim and Cheryl Schonta of Onodaga, Michigan. He is currently attending school at Schoumburg Christian School.

Serving as bridesmaids were Stephanie Weathington, Trista Drury, Erika Carter, Haley Simpkins, Loren Reeves, Mary Lynn Geier, Katie Brock, Kyra McNeil and Madeline Lee. Serving as groomsmen were Connor Schonta, Jake Swartz, Nate Swartz, Trey Martin, Zach Fiori, Chris Deaton, Josh Kasnick, Shane Dickinson and Caleb Strejc.



Following a wonderful honeymoon to Playa del Carmen, Mexico, the couple is residing in Naperville, Illinois.

Deditch Accepted to West Point Military Academy

Tristen Deditch received his appointment to West Point Military Academy January 27. The process takes a lot of effort and patience. The start is creating a resume at the age of 16 and continuing to add to it from employment to accomplishments and organizations he belongs to.

He had to complete several essays on why he would be a fit for West Point and his reasons for wanting to attend, a physical fitness test, and interviews for nominations with U.S. State Representative Aaron Bean and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio. Thanks to the nomination from Rep. Bean and the hard work Tristen put in, Tristen was given his appointment to West Point. Tristen also had a great field representative along the way, with Col. William "Bill" Beiswenger, Jr. coaching him and guiding him through the process. Tristen will begin July 1, 2024.

Tristen is also a member of the Callahan Boy scout Troop 351 where he obtained his Eagle Scout Rank on in August 2023, with the help of his Scout Master Tim Waltman and Christine Waltman. His Eagle scout project was to assist the Florida Boys Ranch in Hilliard with re-doing trails and walkways with signs describing the surrounding area and animals that you may come along the paths. During his scouting life he has also attended the National Youth Leadership training and returned to the NYLT the following session to be a staff member. He has also been a staff member at the Spanish Trail Boy Scout Camp in DeFuniak Springs for the summer and winter of 2023. During his staffing at the



camp, he took charge of many projects to help revitalize the campgrounds and took part with his other Scouts from Troop 351 to create the theme for the Summer Boys Scout Camp.

Tristen works for GTF Paintball in Yulee. He started in November 2021 and quickly

moved up to one of the lead referees where he gives the safety speeches to the attending groups.

Tristen attends Stanton College Preparatory School. While at Stanton he has been part of the varsity football team for 4 years, the wrestling team for one year, a member of the National Honor Society, a Member of the National PSI Alpha Society and the Leadership team of Stanton. Tristan will be graduating in May 2024.

Tristen was selected to attend the Florida American Legions Boys State in the summer of 2023 where he was elected as Party Whip for his party. He spoke to a crowd of several hundred boys and was a huge contributor to his Party's winning the Mayoral position at the event.

Tristen's proud parents are John and Heather Deditch, of Callahan, who have supported him from day one when he said he wanted to attend West Point. His sister Erica and grandparents Joe and Ella Deditch, always supported him in his journey as well. He has had so much support from family and friends both near and far. Each one of them offering prayers and support along the way. He and his parents appreciate all the support and thank everyone!



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Back-to-Back County Champs! HMS Girls Basketball A Team



The Hilliard Middle School Girls A team ended their season with a record of 8-3. The girls went undefeated in regular season county games. They won against Callahan in the semifinals and against Yulee in the County Championship with a score of 42-28. These ladies are back-toback county champions! Congratulations and great job!

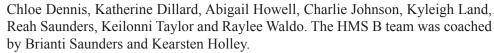
The team members are: Amoreena Eddy, Jayden Green, Makenna Hadden, Charlie Matos, Ella Katherine Pickett, Braelyn Seeley, Brooklyn Seeley, Whitney Toy, Kaelyn Wages and Lacey Vroman and their Coach Marci Ruis Dillard.

HMS Girls Basketball B Team

The Hilliard Middle School Girls B team ended their season with a record 8-1 and undefeated regular season in county. They won against Fernandina Beach in semi-finals and beat Yulee in the County Championship. These ladies are also back-to-back County Champions!

Team members are: Justice Alderman, Alice Jane Borjas,

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ladies

West Signs Letter of Intent



Monday, Hilliard Middle-Senior High School senior Taylor West signed his letter of intent to continue his baseball career and education at Florida State College of Jacksonville. Taylor, who plays shortstop for the Flashes, has played baseball for years, but really began taking it seriously during middle school.

"I've always enjoyed playing and am happy to be continuing to play in college," said Taylor.

He plans to begin his college career in August. His future plans are to major in Logistics or Business. His proud parents are Larry and Amanda West of Hilliard.

Photo Booth Continues for Families

The Jones children have continued to create their photo booth for over three years for the community. They work together as a team and incorporate thematic units and seasonal holidays so that families and friends around Nassau County (as well as neighboring counties) have a free spot to take

They are thankful for all the love, support and encouragement they've been given from the community with this project that they use as part of community service for their homeschool activities. Through their hard work and dedication to this outreach, they have been able to donate to animal shelters, families in need, classroom teachers of our county, and for children that went back to school and needed school supplies and clothing.

They have a small black donation box attached to the back of the photo booth, and they are always grateful for anything left behind in the donation



box that they can continue to give to others. To find out the exact location you can private message Cameron Ebanks Jones on Facebook messenger. The children and their family thank you for continuing to support them with this outreach that they've chosen to do, they're thankful for friends who have encouraged them to continue this journey and who have donated supplies and decorations for the booth.

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HYATT ANNUAL YARD SALE! Friday, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., 614674 River Road, Callahan

YARD SALE, SATURDAY ONLY! 8 a.m. noon, 16586 Oak Hill Road, Hilliard. Tools, toys, collectibles, décor and much more!

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE, Thursday & Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 55072 Little Brook Drive, Spring Lake Estates. Tons of name brand kids clothes and items!

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FSCJ to Host Kids Dental Health Event



Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) is excited to host the Jacksonville Dental Society's annual Give Kids a Smile Day dental wellness event, where FREE dental services will be provided for children ages 4 to 18. Services will include fillings, cleanings and primary tooth extractions.

All children must be pre-screened for eligibility to receive an appointment during the Saturday event. Screenings will be offered by appointment Wednesday, February 21, from 5-8 p.m. at the FSCJ North Campus Dental

Clinic, Building A-Dental Clinic, 4501 Capper Road, Jacksonville. The screening will consist of a review of the child's medical history, a brief oral exam and a limited treatment plan for the Saturday event. To request a screening appointment, complete the request form here: www.shorturl.at/bdUZ.

Parents or legal guardians must be present at the pre-screening and Give Kids a Smile Day for their child to receive care. To learn more, visit fscj.edu/events.

Public Transit Meeting in Callahan

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), in partnership with Nassau County, is conducting a study of public transportation opportunities in the region. This study will update the 2015 Transit Study to reflect demographic, economic, infrastructure and industry growth trends that impact public transportation services and needs. The Transit Study document will include a financial plan identifying existing and projected operating and capital funding sources; a strategic plan for marketing and promoting transit services; and the implementation steps

for 5-year and 10-year planning periods.

Public participation is an integral part of the study and we want to hear from you! JTA will be hosting a public meeting to share information about the study and to get your feedback. Representatives will give a presentation and exhibits will be available for review. Your input will be used to help identify service improvements for future transit.

The meeting will be held in Callahan: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Callahan Multi-Use Facility (fairgrounds), 543350 US Highway 1.

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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.

Monday, January 29

John Lawrence Linton, 58, Hilliard: Theft over \$750 under \$5,000; Burglary **Dwelling Unoccupied**

Thursday, February 1

Christopher Alexander McVey, 36, Callahan: Battery Touch or Strike Domestic Violence; Dprive 911 Communications

Friday, February 2

Timothy James Armstrong, 47, Hilliard: Contempt of Court (x 3) Louie Glen Brandies, III, 51, Hilliard: Contempt of Court

Saturday, February 3

Candace Anita Hartman, 41, Hilliard: Failure to Appear Felony

Mario Daniel Antonio Swift, 34, Hilliard: Battery Touch or Strike Domestic Violence: Felony Criminal Mischief

Candis Christa Wall, 34, Hilliard: Out of County Warrant Felony

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 13, 2024

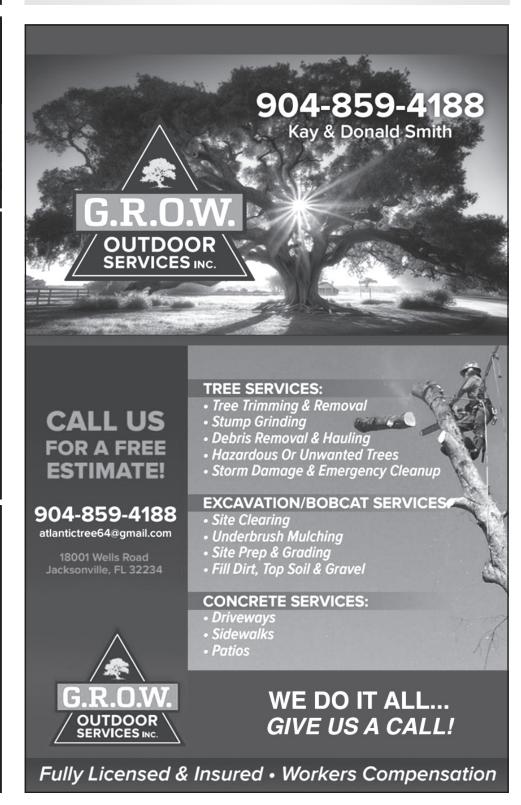
We need you to volunteer to serve on our Jury today! Stay in touch by phone or emails! Sign-in between 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boys; and modest dress for girls. Court begins promptly at 6 p.m. and is over by 7 p.m. 3 Hours Community Service for each Court Session!

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.

FRIENDS OF THE HILLIARD LIBRARY INFORMATIVE MEEING

The Friends of the Hilliard Library will hold an informational meeting Thursday, February 22 at 6 p.m. at the library. The public is invited to attend and learn more about how the 'Friends' can be of service to the library. Please come out and support your local library!



Remember to Pray for Our Troops

The Westside Journal would like to pay tribute to all the brave servicemen and women. Please take time to remember each of these service members in your daily prayers.

Gabriel Albert (Hawaii), Jacob Ash-Medina (Japan), Jewel Rene Barron (Virginia), Timothy Beasley (Cuba), Cody Beaver (Virginia), Jessica Bell (Hawaii), Chad E. Black (South Carolina), Kevin & Brooke Blanton (Georgia), Sgt. Caleb Bohannon (Oklahoma), Israel Marcos Bonilla (Missouri), Derek Borden, Benjamin Black (Iraq), Seth Blackman (North Carolina), Conrad Brauwn (Afghanistan), Ryan Brooks (Connecticut), John Brookshire (North Carolina), Aaron Brown (Japan), Branden Brown (USS Nimitz), Anthony Broekema (Virginia), Ethan Bulford, (Virginia), SSGT Thomas W. Burnette (North Carolina), Ahmad Butler (Japan), Brayden Lamar Carroll (North Carolina), Allen L. Carter (Alaska), Samuel S. Clemons (Virginia), John Coltrane (NAS Jax), Scott Cooper, Trevor Corum (Nebraska), Charlie I. D. Cox (South Korea), Quinn Coxwell (Georgia), Gavin Crews (Germany), Tison J. Crews (Korea), Charles 'CJ' Cribbs, III (Washington, DC), Dennis L. Davis II (Alabama), Joshua M. Davis (New York), Shannon Davis (Nevada), Johanna Diaz (Nevada), Clif Dixon (Iraq), Devin Michael Dowling (Missouri), Christopher Downs (Arizona), William Clay Dryden (South Korea), James Dale Evans (Baghdad), David Farhat (North Carolina), Christen Fernandez, Randall Heath Forde (Georgia), Medford Foskey (Arizona), Clinton Fouraker (Virginia), Jeremy Francisco (Mayport), Jennifer D. Frederick (Colorado), Kevin J. Gahris (United Arab Emirates), Michael E. Garcia (Afghanistan), Marcus Gee (Iraq), Samantha Gee (Korea), Tabetha Gee (Korea), Chadrick Gibson (Iraq), Charles Gibson, Darrell Goodwyne, Jr. (Iraq), Sgt. Daniel Graves, Jr. (North Carolina), Eric Greene (Georgia), Branden R. Griffis (Florida), Wendy Griffis (Afghanistan), Phaylyn Griffith (California), Kandis Guyton (California), Hunter C. Guzman (Georgia), Micah Hall (Georgia), Michael Hall, Michael Hallman (Key West), Ronnie Hammer (Kentucky), Todd W. Hanner, Jr. (Texas), Andy

Harper, Harley Henderson (Texas), Nathan Hess (Alaska), Jeff Higgs (Spain), SPC Hodge (Iraq), Josh Hoyle (California), Levi Hren (West Point), AT2 Brian Hughes (Bahrain), Bryan K. Jeffers II (Iraq), Jacob Jensen (Middle East), Cade Johns (Virginia Beach), Aaron L. Johnson (Colorado), Carlus Johnson (Texas), Donald Johnson (North Carolina), Joshua Michael Johnson (Italy), Jamaal Jones (Hawaii), Bradley Justice, Brian J. Kerns (Virginia), Kayla King (Germany), Scott Kirkland (California), Joshua Knight, PO3 Travis E. Kornacki (North Carolina), Jordan Kriner (Italy), Victoria LaMontagne (Kuwait), Tyler Landreville (Florida), John C. Larkin (Iraq), Thomas Layden (North Carolina), Chase M. Lewis (North Carolina), Katelyn Lewis (Japan), Mattie Lewis (Texas), Nicholas Louese (Spain), Jason Lovejoy (Colorado), Patrick Lynagh (Nevada), Steven Lynn (Michigan), Gatlin Mackie (Virginia), Kevin Marshall (Germany), Canisha Martin (Georgia), Tony Martin (Georgia), Anthony Mastrogiovanni (Georgia), Stacey McDaniel (Virginia), Caleb McGee (Virginia), Noah E. McKinnon (Iraq), Michael McQuaiz, Matthew McRae (North Carolina), Russell Mellroy (Afghanistan), Ivory Melton, Jr. (Kuwait), Brian Middleton (Afghanistan), Weston J. Miller (South Carolina), Steven Miner (Germany), Dallon Mirando (North Carolina), Chase Allen Mitchell (Colorado), Britt Mizell (South Carolina), Dillon Mock (Florida), Joshua Monds (Virginia), Spencer Money (North Carolina), Anthony Moore (Afghanistan), Anthony Moore (South Carolina), Roland Moore (Iraq), Chris Morehead (North Carolina), Sgt. Travis Morris, Climart 'CJ' Moses (Afghanistan), Michael Murphy (Iraq), Aaron Musgrove (Afghanistan), Stephen Myers (Korea), Jonathan Neeve (Texas), Gary Nelson (Kuwait), Michael Nettles (Iraq), Lee Nickola (Iraq), Ryan Norton (North Carolina), Jesse O'Berry (England), Daniel O'Dell, Shannon O'Dell, David Oppfelt (Florida), Lane O'Quinn (Alaska), Steven A. Oxfurth (Connecticut), Walter Oxfurth (New Mexico), Chase Parden (Kansas), Michael Park (South Korea), Danielle Parker (North Carolina), Jeremy Pelkey (Georgia), Christopher Phelan (Virginia), Darren Phelan (Washington State), Kyle Pipkins (South Carolina), Joshua Poirier (Georgia), Austin Potochnik (California), Dusty Price (Iraq), Michael Price (Germany), Jeffery Rapadas (Kuwait), Justin Reed (North Carolina), Kasie Richardson (North Carolina), Jeffrey Rigdon (Kentucky), Camilla Roberts (Alaska), Sydney A. Robinette (Florida), Michael Robinson (Alabama), Jason Rodgers (Texas), Douglas Raymond Roth, Marc Rowe (Georgia), Dillon Rozar (Louisiana), Brian M. Sartain, Jr. (North Dakota), James Sanders (Germany), Tressie Scott (Afghanistan), Marcus Sharpe (Michigan), Donald Shaw (Iraq), Michael Shearer (Illinois), Jesse D. Silcox (Bahrain), Daniel Singley, Corey Slayton (California), Christopher E. Smith (Iraq), Michael J. Smith (North Carolina), Nathan Smith (Texas), Robbie Smith, Jr. (Germany), Nicolas Snow (North Carolina), David Stallings (Kuwait), Bill Starling (Iraq), David Starling (North Carolina), Larry V. Starratt, III (Korea), Scott M. Stephens (Hawaii), James 'Mike' Stringer (Iraq), Joseph R. Taylor (Texas), Luke Thomas (Germany), Michael Thomas (North Carolina), Crystal Thompson (Iraq), Terry Thompson (Virginia), Tiffany Thompson (Washington), Sarah Tindell (North Carolina), Corey M. Turner (Kuwait), William Varner (California), Shawn W. Vickers (California), Daniel Vroman (North Carolina), Jonathan Vroman (Georgia), Brett Wade (Florida), Reece Wade (Arizona), Jeff Walters (Iraq), Shawn Ward (Texas), Brian Waring (Iraq), Daniel Waters, David Watson (California), Justin Webb (Japan), James D. Whitman, Carson Williamson (North Carolina), Earl Youman, Jr. (Virginia)



It is our honor to recognize our local Armed Service members. We would like to update our 'Pray for our Troops' list, adding those who have recently joined our Armed Services or removing those who no longer serve. Please read over the list. If you need to make a correction, addition or deletion, just give us a call, 879-4180. You may also email changes to news@westsidejournal.net.

God Bless our Troops!

Viewer Discretion is Advised!

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

Seeing this, on your TV Screen, you're likely to immediately begin "Channel Surfing" to find something that does not carry this kind of disclaimer. "Our children don't need to see this!" you would think. Or you would decide; "My sensitive feelings might be offended by this awful declaration of real-life potential historical situations."

But then, on the same network, you're likely to see commercials for a show that men dress as women for competition, without any such disclaimer. Or, on a sister network, you'll likely see a show where some folks, that know each other, share controversial situations, illicit sex and questionable ethics violations in their lives, without such a disclaimer. All while being categorized as a "Comedy."

So, what is the terrible show that carries this moniker in front of its presentation? A show that is prefaced with: "This program contains outdated cultural depictions. Viewer discretion is advised!" It is a show that was highly acclaimed when it was being produced and was broadcast during the 'family hour' on Sunday nights. It was about a man that raised 'his' three sons, each from a different woman, where they were devoted to each other and their family business and legacy. honored each other and the diversity of each other's interests. episodes had a humorous angle to the stories, while others demonstrated the admirable quality of recognizing right from wrong. Some contained violence, as the time in history was set around the later days of the Civil War and the times and troubles that followed. It aired for 14 years, beginning in 1959.

It was an Emmy Award winning show, as it depicted many of the values that we hold dear today. That includes the well-known fact that there are many children out there, which were fathered by one man with several different women. The difference was that this lead character held his family together and accepted the responsibility to do so, along with the motivation to make difficult circumstances succeed.

On the other hand, today's culture accepts the fact that there are many out there, fathering all these kids, and just walking away and taking no responsibility. This show recognized children of a man, which honored his ethics and dedication, while many of today's children might love to do so, they likely have no idea who 'Daddy' was. Some may not even know who 'Mom' was.

So, by all means, in the name of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, avoid viewing this awful demonstration of "Good versus Evil," Love and Devotion to each other (regardless of different interests) and don't be polluted by watching any re-runs of Bonanza!

To paraphrase *Adlai Ewing Stevenson* – There was a time when a father amounted to something in the United States. He was held with some esteem in the community; he had some authority in his own household; his views were something taken seriously by his children. Even his wife paid heed to him, from time to time.

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HELEN MARIE CAPPIELLO



Helen Marie Cappiello, 89, of Callahan, passed away peacefully January 31, 2024, with family by her side. She was born on March 2, 1934,

in Jacksonville, to the late Harold Edwin Padgett and Dorothy Lee Pickett Padgett. Helen and the love of her life, John, wed on December 21, 1977, and were happily married for 37 years. Helen lived a simple life; she was a simple woman. She enjoyed going to the beach with John and shopping with her sister, Betty. Helen and Betty thoroughly enjoyed their shopping trips to Walmart and Winn Dixie. Helen was fond of animals and loved her cats and dogs. More than anything, Helen loved to spend time with her family who she loved dearly. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband John James Cappiello; and daughter Linda Diane Harris.

Helen leaves behind her son Steve Edwin (Jackie) Jones; sister Betty Hines; grandson Christopher (Melissa) Harris; and great-grandson Nicholas Harris.

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

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

JAMES L. HOLSOMBACH



James Lafayette Holsombach, 55, of Hilliard, passed away unexpectedly February 1, 2024. He was born June 19, 1968 in New

Port Richey, Florida. Although he had no children of his own, he was always the much-loved favorite uncle to a huge pack of nieces and nephews. For whom he was always inventing new and more dangerous ways of getting injured.

He was always down for adventure, playing pranks and laughing. He was a talented and proud builder, a fisherman and farmhand. But his true gift was jovially arguing with anyone willing to return fire. He was as tough as he was kind. He was the first to respond to anyone in need of help. A mentor and teacher to many tradesmen, who will carry on his knowledge and wisdom. He loved all animals, except a freaking string ray. He was a Dapper Dan man!

He is survived by his wife of 37 loooong years, Helen Holsombach; his parents Alice and Leon Anderson; sister Angie (David) Taylor; brothers Wyatt (Jessie) Anderson,

OBITUARIES

Dennis (Cathy) Anderson and Kenny (Christie) Anderson.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 9 from 4-6 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan. The celebration of life service will be held Saturday, February 10 at the River House from 12 – 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests potted plants or trees that may be planted in his honor.

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

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

CHRISTEN AMANDA LONG



Christen Amanda "Chrissy"
Long, 33, of Jacksonville,
passed away January 22, 2024.
She was born July 14, 1990 in
Lubbock, Texas to Ted Chris

Long and Deborah Anne Fink Dossenback. Chrissy loved entertaining her family and friends. She had a passion for music, attending concerts and music festivals. Gardening was another one of her favorite pastimes. Chrissy was skilled in making leather belts and purses. She cherished being by the water whether it be poolside, the beach or waterfront. Chrissy adored animals, especially her pets, Daisy and Leila. She was known for giving the best hugs, was loved by all who knew her and will be missed dearly. Chrissy was preceded in death by her father Ted Long; aunt Jeanie Louise Long; and great-grandparents T.R. and Bonnie Bumpass.

Chrissy leaves behind her loving mother, Deborah Anne Dossenback; stepfather Michael Len Dossenback; beloved fiancé Ronald Scott Perry; brother Jaden Jeremiah Dossenback; sister Alicia Marie "Chulla" Moyeno; stepbrothers Joshua Carl Dossenback and Jonathan Jacob Angelo Dossenback; stepsisters Brittany Ana Moyeno and Alyssa Rose Dossenback Buchanan; grandfather David Robert Fink; grandmothers Lana Long and Rose Anne Fink; uncle Michael (Melissa) David Fink; cousins Mason, Dillion and Luke Fink; father and mother-in-law to be Ron and Cindy Perry; brother-in-law to be Brennan Perry; and countless number of friends.

The family will receive friends at 11

a.m. Saturday, February 10 at Nassau Funeral Home, prior to the celebration of life service at 1 p.m. with Pastor Jimmy Larsen officiating.

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

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

MARINA "NANU" SMOLDER



Marina "Nanu" Smolder, 89, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully December 19, 2023. She was born January 21, 1934, to the late Arthur

Leonard Lindgren and Ethel Softly Nurse in South Shields, England. Marina met the love of her life and late husband, Delmer Kenneth Smolder in England while he was stationed there during his enlistment in the United States Air Force. They met at a dance, which was something they both loved to do. They exchanged vows and became husband and wife on October 30, 1954. After his retirement from the Air Force, they settled in Jacksonville.

After Delmer's passing in 1996, Marina stayed very active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints until her health wouldn't allow her to. Marina was an excellent cook and enjoyed cooking English foods. She never met a person she didn't like and loved helping others celebrate their birthday by always baking a cake or a pie for them. Marina also enjoyed making crafts and loved telling her childhood stories but more than anything she loved spending time with her family, who she loved dearly. Marina was preceded in death by her parents; husband; twin sons Steven and Russell Smolder; and sister Betty Elliott.

Marina leaves behind her daughter

Virginia (Johnnie) Freeman; grandchildren Amanda (Keith) Traver and Shane (Toni) Freeman; great-grandchildren Elisha Andrews, Madison Traver, Alyssa Traver, Ian Traver, Skyler Freeman and Mason Freeman; great-great grandchild Bexleigh Andrews; and sister Lillian Bennett.

A graveside service was held Friday, December 29 at Evergreen Cemetery with Hubert W. Chapman, Sr. officiating.

DELORAS COLEEN WEBBER



Deloras Coleen Webber, 90, of Callahan, passed away peacefully January 26, 2024 with her family by her side at Community Hospice Douglas

Center. She was born December 12, 1933 to the late Elmer L. Harmon and Cora Bratcher Harmon in Lake City, Tennessee. Deloras and the love of her life, Clarence, were happily married for 65 beautiful years and together they had three children Donna, Cheryl and Dana. Deloras and Clarence moved from Jacksonville to Callahan in 1984 making it their forever home. She attended Vision Baptist Church in Jacksonville. She took pride in her flowers and plants and she also enjoyed crafts such as sewing and crocheting. Deloras was a loving wife, mother, sister and grandmother who will be deeply missed. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Donna Jaskernia; son-in-law Frank Jaskernia.

Deloras leaves behind her loving husband, Clarence Luther Webber, Jr.; daughter Cheryl (Dan) Schieber; son Dana (Dianne) Webber; brother Jack Harmon; grandchildren Ashleigh Schieber, Audrey Schieber, Kimberly (Cody) Webber Young, Kourtney Webber and Jacob Webber; greatgrandchildren Landon and Lauren Young.

A celebration of Deloras' life was held February 2 at Nassau Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Berrey.

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

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