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to God for  
Our Nation!

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 33

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

"BUT LET US, WHO ARE OF THE DAY, BE SOBER, PUTTING ON THE BREASTPLATE OF FAITH AND LOVE; AND FOR AN HELMET, THE HOPE OF SALVATION." - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:8



CONNECTING THANKFUL AMERICANS WITH OUR NATION'S MEDAL OF HONOR HEROES ONE LETTER AT A TIME

The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation is joining forces with Janine Stange for the 6th Annual Medal of Honor Mail Call.

Today, there are 66 living Medal of Honor recipients. There is only one WWII Medal of Honor recipient still living. Each has a powerful story and we owe each a debt of gratitude.

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How to Participate in the Medal of Honor Mail Call:

1. Pick a living recipient from the database at:

[www.MOHMuseum.org/mail-call/#mail-call-list](http://www.MOHMuseum.org/mail-call/#mail-call-list)

2. Research your recipient's service & learn about their life

3. Write your letter, speak from the heart, tell them what you learned from their story, why it matters to you and what it means to you. If possible, have children draw them a picture to include with the letter. Make it special!

4. Mail your letter by March 25th to:

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**ALL LETTERS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 25**  
**NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY**

## Callahan Discusses Fireworks

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of March. Hilliard Town Council President John Beasley approached the podium to discuss the July fireworks. "I just wanted to come tonight and see if you (Callahan council) are still okay with sharing the July fireworks show with us (Hilliard council) at the fairgrounds again? "The fireworks show will be on Saturday, July 2, if that's okay with you all," said Beasley. "As with everything else, the prices have increased, however, they would cost even more if we chose to have the show on July 4th. The cost of the same show we had last year is \$30,000, which is \$15,000 for both towns. We hope to have some food trucks to come and join in as well as opening up the fairgrounds for seating and restrooms."

The Callahan council was on board with all the plans thus far and will pay their share of \$15,000. The councils (Callahan & Hilliard) plan to have a joint meeting in April or early May to get the final plans ironed out.

Town Manager Mike Williams advised the council that the town attorney has looked over the Meridian

Waste contract and it all seems to be in order. "The contract is for another 3 years with no increase in the first year," said Williams. "If you (council) are in agreeance with the contract, the item will be placed on the next agenda to move forward with signing the contract."

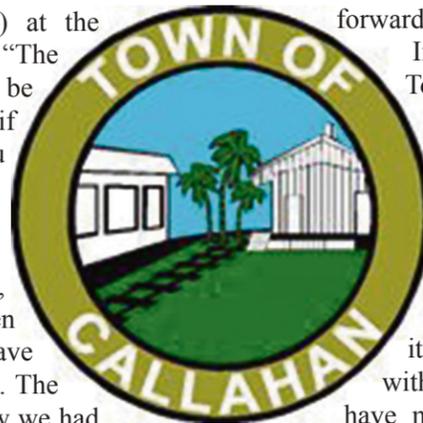
The council agreed with moving forward with Meridian.

In closing comments, Town Clerk Shawna Gugliuzza, advised the council that she had been contacted by a group that would like to start up a vendor market at the rail bed. "They would like it to be a daily event with vendors and also have music and food trucks on Fridays," said Gugliuzza. "I just wanted to get the council's take on something like this."

After much conversation, Councilwoman Ashton Vargus requested that the item be put on the agenda for the next meeting with a spokesperson from the group to come and speak to the council about this.

Gugliuzza will have the item added to the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m.



## Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first regular meeting of March. The first order of business was a question from a Hilliard resident. "I just have a question and I've received mixed answers to the question. So I thought it best to come to the meeting and ask the council," said Hilliard resident, Earnie Wine. "I need to know if I can build a mother-in-law suite on my property. I have an

aging father and would like to have it for him."

The council referred the question to Land Administrator Janis Fleet. "I have emailed Mr. Wine several times. This is a case of asking the question in a different way," said Fleet. "Our code states an accessory structure or dwelling unit is acceptable. I think the code needs to be updated to make it more clear as these types of additions are becoming customary and very common, and a

great idea."

Wine was directed to move forward on his plans by the council.

The council set a workshop with Tim Norman of Mittauer & Associates, Inc., the town's engineering firm, to discuss Infrastructure Requirements for Individual Lots. The workshop will be held Monday, March 28 at 7 p.m.

The next item concerned the council approval to make the first payment to Utility Service Company for the Meter

Maintenance contract, as the work is completed. "We are in a 5-year payment plan with them, with the first payment now, and another in October," said Town Clerk Lisa Purvis. "The next payment will be October 2023."

The following item concerned a Capital Budget item for the Parks & Recreation Department. "The pool is in really bad shape and needs new mar site sooner rather than later," said PR

See 'Hilliard Town News' on page 2

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## A Word From the Publisher

Who would have ever thought the United States of America would be like we are today? Gas prices are continuing to be on the rise, food costs are high and our country just seems to be spiraling out of control. It is so easy to get overwhelmed thinking of it all. Now is past time that we Americans start using our common sense. I feel like many people have forgotten what they used to do without someone always telling them what to do. I learned early in life, when my parents told me to do something, there was no hesitation. Okay, maybe once and then I learned from that time to do what they said. We've become a country of following instead of leading. We've forgotten how to make a defined list of things to do and places to go all at one time. Roger laughs at me when I tell him what I have done in one morning. We must plan our trips out and be frugal. I try to go visit customers, stop by the bank, take the dry cleaning (if need be) and check the mail in one trip. You would be surprised at how much you can get accomplished by making a checklist before starting out. That is only one simple thing.

We have been so accustomed to having the government tell us what we can do and when we can do it. We have businesses to keep going, jobs, families to feed and sports activities for our children. Now is not the time to stop... now is the time to pull up our boot straps and dig in. I, myself, have never seen gas prices this high and I'll just tell you, it's a burden. We may not be happy with what's happening in our government

but we are all still Americans. There's nothing wrong with speaking up and standing up for what is right and we should. Never forget that God gave us a voice to speak respectfully and he also gave us our mind to think. We have to fight to get our America back. Just as we fly our American flags with pride and respect we must remember what that flag stands for. So many men and women fought for our freedom and we must not take it for granted. Freedom did not come free.

Pastor Ryan shared Sunday how we all love the American flag and our favorite team flags. "How many times do we wave the flag of the Lord and share His goodness?" he asked. That thought hit me hard as I can quickly talk about my country or my team but am I the same about my Savior? Not hardly. How many of us believe that Jesus Christ is coming again? As I have shared before, I get just as crazy about the ways of world as anyone else. However, to reel myself back in, I step outside and look up at the beautiful sky and creation and remember that God is in control. I am so thankful I know how the story ends. The Lord is returning and I am eagerly waiting that day. The most important decision you need to make today is to ask Jesus into your heart. Our God is bigger than anything you can imagine. He is knocking at your heart's door... won't you let Him in?

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Shattering Economy

Dear Editor,

\$3.65 a gallon and climbing. Supply chain shortages. Empty shelves that we're paying for. Everything costs 25% more to make up for them. A shattered economy. And NOW, a world at peace headed toward war. What's next? While Biden holds committee meetings,

the best way to avoid responsibility, rationing, waiting on line for grocery essentials.

Stock Market fat cats beware. You think you're safe. Think again! To anyone still supporting the Biden-Harris administration, I hope you like the climate in the Ukraine. We settled for the wrong answer, when we had the right one all along. TRUMP!

B. R. McConnell

### Hilliard Town News

*Continued from page 1*

Director Gabe Whittenburg. "I really had to run down these companies to get these bids. I'm recommending Pinnacle Pool Plastering, Inc. for the job at a cost of \$88,429, including a 10-year warranty. Pinnacle was the most responsive company and they are local."

"What was the budget for this," asked Councilman Kenny Sims.

"\$90,000 and long overdue," said Whittenburg. The council approved the recommendation.

During additional comments by the public, Hilliard resident Skip Frye advised the council that he was so impressed with the Recreation Department basketball program. "Saturdays were filled from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. in two gyms and didn't miss a

beat," said Frye. "Gabe has done a great job with the program!"

Ray Schmoldt thanked the Public Works department for the additional work they did on Lee Street. "It was much appreciated," said Schmoldt.

Council President John Beasley advised the council that he would be at the Callahan meeting Monday night to discuss fireworks plans. "I want to make sure having the fireworks on Saturday, July 2 is okay with everyone," said Beasley. "The fireworks are going to cost more anyway but they would really be higher on July 4."

The council agreed that July 2 would be fine.

The next council meeting will be Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m.

### In the Kitchen...

### Chewy Cake

- 1 box light brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 stick butter
- 2 1/4 cups self-rising flour

- 1/2 pkg. coconut
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Mix sugar, eggs and butter until creamy. Add flour and mix. Add vanilla, coconut and pecans. Line 9"x13" pan with tin foil. Pour in batter. Bake for one hour at 300°.

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# Nassau County Young Republicans News

Jordan Stoner

The Nassau County Young Republicans (NCYR, FL) is a newly established, fast-growing Republican Charter comprised of passionate conservatives that love their country.

Feeling the need to step up and do something that is more important than people may realize, these ambitious young constitutionalists have sought out to fill what they perceive as a void in young leaders across their great nation. Their core mission is to raise awareness in Nassau's youth on what's happening in the world today and how it increases the importance of getting involved at the local level.

Believing that everything starts and stops with local politics, the NCYR, FL hopes to inspire their generation to join them and become active. These young patriots have already put in motion a series of events such as skeet shoots, public speech contests, prominent guest speakers for future meetings, and more to encourage participation.

Looking to grow their numbers,



the elected officers within the club are determined to create a fun and inviting atmosphere especially for those who may feel intimidated by politics. The new YR charter meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month (March 15) at 7 p.m. This monthly gathering is open to everyone and is held at the fair office at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds in Callahan.

Motivated young Republicans are needed now more than ever before, and this is a movement that anyone can proudly be a part of. Promoting unity not only

within the Republican party but amongst everyone countywide, from all walks of life. Given recent events in our nation and in the world, the time has come for us to embrace our young Americans and encourage them to lead together; to make way and prepare for a future that has never been more uncertain.

Please visit/contact the Nassau County Young Republicans, FL Facebook page for more information on how you can contribute to their movement.

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

It is anyone's guess as to what is going to be the outcome of Russia's murderous invasion of Ukraine. We are witnessing a war on innocent people because as Bill O'Reilly put it, "Biden is weak, Putin is evil. Both circumstances will not change."

This entire war lies on the back of Joe Biden and the "woke" progressive democrat party. If people cannot see what a weak demented president we have, then they are totally blind. Do you still believe that Joe Biden received over 81 million votes?

We as a country are in a perilous position like never before. We very well could be facing an enemy that is very capable and just evil enough to launch a nuclear weapon. Putin is the perfect example of the only kid syndrome and the school bully all wrapped into one. He is as unstable as Biden but in a different way. His instability comes from an ego that convinces him that he can have whatever he wants no matter what it takes, no matter how many people he has to kill, no matter the destruction to the world he may cause. Putin is the second most dangerous country leader in the world today. Joe Biden is the first most dangerous due to being a weak non-leader of the free world. I guarantee you, Putin laughs at Biden and the United States on a daily

basis. I also guarantee that if Donald Trump was president the people of Ukraine would be sleeping peacefully tonight.

Over last weekend, Elon Musk, the great green czar pushed for greater oil and gas output and urged Europe to turn toward nuclear power for its energy needs. The Tesla owner tweeted as gasoline prices continued to rise at alarming rates, "Hate to say it, but we need to increase oil and gas output immediately. Extraordinary times demand extraordinary measures." He totally understands that there is no way sustainable energy could instantly make up for lost Russian oil and gas exports. I personally don't think sustainable energy can ever totally replace fossil fuel use, nor do I think our Great Creator envisioned such. The mining of the resources to manufacture batteries is much worse to mother earth than drilling for oil. I'm not a tree-hugger by any means, but the horrific destruction caused by this mining even has me shaking my head. All I can say is enjoy your green vehicles and I promise to wave to you when I pass you stranded on the side of the road when your batteries fail that were charged by fossil fueled power plants.

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

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Bryceville Community Club will resume their monthly meetings March 15 at 11 a.m. at the Bryceville Community building on Motes Road. Janet Adkins, Supervisor of Elections will speak on the new Florida Voting regulations.

The Callahan Library is now offering Technology help on Thursdays from 3-5 p.m. Residents can sign up for a spot on our website: [nassaureads.com](http://nassaureads.com). We will offer help with basic computer skills, ebook resources, library databases, email/internet basics, social media and more!

2022 Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival will be held April 29, 30 & May 1, 2022. The Shrimp Festival Parade will be Thurs., April 28 at 6 p.m. To enter visit: [www.ShrimpFestival.com](http://www.ShrimpFestival.com).

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# Repent for the Kingdom of God is at Hand

*Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan*



Greetings brothers and sisters of the west side. We need to look over our lives and make sure that we're asking God for forgiveness. We are repenting for not obeying God's word and the things we've done wrong. We often overlook the seriousness of the offenses that we commit. Sometimes we hurt others and ourselves by our actions. John The Baptist preached the Kingdom of Heaven and taught us to repent. He was the forerunner for Jesus Christ; he came preaching God's word preparing the way for the Savior. He preached what the Jews had never heard, not even from the Prophets; it was a cry for change. We are standing in the shadows of John with the same message today that Jesus is soon to come, and we must repent and be ready.

Our minds change when repentance is from the heart and behavior follows. Jesus' central message was to preach repentance for the kingdom of God is at hand. The word repent simply means to turn around. We have seen military movies where soldiers march in one direction and then preformed an about-face and marched in the opposite direction. Repentance can be viewed as having a change of mind, which then changes your path in life. So, repentance is a perfect example of what happens when you come to Christ. You no longer reject Christ but believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. You do a spiritual about-face, which changes everything in your life. Not only do you change your mind about Christ, but you change your mind about sin, discovering what it means to honor God. You begin to develop that faith in the Lord God almighty. It's about a heart confessing Christ and seeking to honor Him in everyday life, preparing for everlasting life with God.

The Apostle Peter shares God's word in Acts 2:37-39 in a way that compels our hearts to change. *"When they heard his message, they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men, and brethren, what shall we do? To be saved. Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."*

God told Jonah to preach unto Nineveh a word that would compel them to change their mind and repent, and that's just what happened. Nineveh heard the word, and they prayed, asking for forgiveness. God granted mercy from the evil he would do upon the city. Jonah's message may have included conditions whereby the word of God could be rescinded. As evidence of His mercy to the Ninevites, God sent Jonah with a message to proclaim, to open the hearts of the people. Also, seeing their repentant actions, God repented of His threat of destruction. He had spared Jonah (Chapter 2); now He spared Nineveh. God's mercies are always unmerited; His grace is never earned. Repentance is never a work to be rewarded. But this is not to say that God does not respond to such repentance.

Today's a fantastic day; it's your day to repent and be born again. If we are willing to ask God to forgive us for our sins, he will forgive us. Grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

# Growing Herbs with the Garden Club

Callahan Garden Club president, Janet Shaw, welcomed guest speakers Connie Gladding and BJ Hausman to the Wednesday, March 2 meeting. Connie and BJ, both UF Master Gardeners, provided those present with information on Culinary Herbs. They shared techniques for growing herbs, their health benefits, ways to cook with herbs, and how to make an indoor self-watering herb garden.



They brought a large selection of herbs for demonstration, shared cuttings from some unusual herb varieties and demonstrated tools designed for herb gardening. We all enjoyed learning more about herb gardening and will

have some tasty additions to our recipes.

The Callahan Garden Club invites anyone that is interested in gardening with flowers, plants or vegetables to come to their monthly meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at 45251 Fourth Avenue.

# Eat, Drink & Be Irish Saturday



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 401 in Hilliard is hosting a St. Patrick's Day celebration this Saturday, March 12 at the American Legion Post 401, 37405 Henry Smith Road in Hilliard.

They will be serving a complete Irish meal of Corned Beef & Cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread & dessert for a \$12 donation. Dinners will be sold from 5-8 p.m. or until sold out! They will also have a 'GET LUCKY! Gift Basket' raffle. Over \$100 in gift cards, scratch offs and other items.

This dinner sells out fast so they are taking pre-orders for dine-in or to-go plates. Call to pre-order your dinner to 904- 845-7300. Thank you for supporting the Auxiliary!

## RECREATION MEETING

The Nassau County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will be held Thursday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the County Building on Mickler Street in Callahan. If you have any questions, please call 904-530-6120 or 855-534-8529. The public is invited.

## CHURCH NEWS

Hilliard First Assembly of God Youth will be sponsoring a "Collective Youth Conference" Rooted In Christ Fri. and Sat., March 11 & 12. Registration 5 p.m. Friday, cost \$25 per student. This will include two meals. For more information call Pastor Bryan Hahn at 904-551-8929.

Grace Baptist Church, 13290 Ranch Rd., Jacksonville, invites you to their Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. (Sunday school), 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays 7 p.m. Pastor Bill Forde.

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## Are You Watching Your 401k Lose Money?



Have you recently sold a home or have extra funds in a low, no interest savings account that is not working for you? Do you have a will or financial plan in place to protect your family's estate from probate? My name is Tammy Youngblood, and these are questions that our team can answer for you! We are proud of our West Nassau community neighbors who strive diligently to keep this part of the county an awesome place to live and raise our families.

The American Youngblood and Transition Solutions Group recently joined forces to create a group of professionals that will help you keep your assets protected.

We are bringing our team to you for dinner and the opportunity to help you realize your family's financial success and security Tuesday, March 15 at 5 p.m. at The Pig restaurant, 450102 W. SR200, Callahan.

Please RSVP, as your Complimentary Buffet Dinner and Information Reservation is limited to the first 50 persons who respond by March 13, 2022. "Adults Only" please. Please register at: [www.AmericanYoungblood.com](http://www.AmericanYoungblood.com).

## Poker Run Fundraiser Held for Hilliard Football

Saturday, February 26, the American Legion Riders Post 401 sponsored a Poker Run Fundraiser in support of the Pride of Hilliard Football Club. The weather was perfect for a ride! The event raised over \$3,000 for the club. There was a great turn-out with 48 registered for the poker run and additional barbecue dinners were sold. Daniel Thomas (Hilliard alumni and former NFL player) was present for pictures and autographs. Thomas is joining the coaching staff at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School for the upcoming season.



There was over \$500 in auction items sold and the event collected over \$600 in raffle items. MAE Contracting LLC proudly donated \$500 and the VFW Post 4351 donated \$100. Thank you to all who participated!





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# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pickett Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Mike and Diane Pickett, of Callahan, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 10. The Pickett's were married March 10, 1972 in Dothan, Alabama. They met in Jacksonville in 1971. They moved to Callahan in 1985. They are both retired and are enjoying every minute of it! They love to camp, go fishing, take road trips and enjoy family gatherings. They celebrated their milestone with a family low country boil! However, they also plan on taking a road trip soon to continue the celebration!

They have two daughters Tammy and Wes Janssen of Orange Park and Kelly and Trent Wainwright of Callahan. They also have five grandchildren Ariel (Andy), Beck (Caitlin), Jaren, Joshua and Ty; and two great-grandchildren Jackie and Ezra.



## Sylvester Ross Celebrates 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday

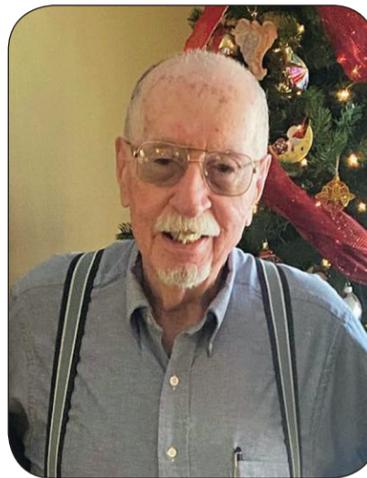


Mr. Sylvester Ross, of Hilliard, celebrated his 96th birthday March 10. Mr. Ross was born March 10, 1031, in Jacksonville. In his younger years, his family moved to Hilliard where he grew up. He served in the US Navy and later started his own pulpwood trucking business. He currently lives in Hilliard on over four acres of property with his family surrounding him.

He is an active member of the Westside Senior Center and is looking forward to getting back to meet and socialize with his friends later this month. Mr. Ross is a second Deacon at Hisbon Baptist Church, where he has been an active member for 50 years or more. He loves the Lord and gives Him the glory for his wonderful life.

He will celebrate his special milestone with his family. He has three daughters and three sons; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

## Ray Seeley Celebrates 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday



Mr. Ray Seeley, longtime Hilliard resident, celebrated his 91st birthday March 5! Mr. Ray was born March 5, 1931 in Akron, Ohio. He moved his family to Florida in 1967. Mr. Ray, also known as the 'Voice of the Flashes' continues to announce the Hilliard High School Flashes girls varsity softball games because he enjoys it so much. We caught him a week ago, during a chilly night calling the game! He was the announcer for Flashes football for 33 years and also basketball where he called the game from 'Ray's Roost' which was named after him a few years ago. Mr. Ray celebrated

his special milestone with a family dinner with his children Saturday.

He has three children: Karen Seeley, Ken (Peggy) Seeley and Eric Seeley; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



## Onyx Trace Lofton

Kristin and Alex Lofton, of Tampa, are proud to announce the birth of their son Onyx Trace Lofton. Onyx was born at 8:40 p.m. December 30, 2021 in Tampa, Florida. He weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces and measured 20.5 inches.

Proud grandparents are Greg Lofton; Tracy and Craig Varnes; and Mary Andrews.

Proud great-grandparents are Marion Register; Barbra Varnes; and Patsy York.

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## Callahan Garden Club Delivers Gifts of Gratitude

The Callahan Garden Club delivered 'Thank You' bouquets to members of the community this past week. Recipients were Dr. William Titus' dentist office staff, the Westside Journal staff, and the Callahan Library, as well as Brandies Ace Hardware and Southeastern Bank.



## OREMC Quilt Raffle Benefits Pinky Promise Foundation

Congratulations to Marcele Gillum, winner of the handmade, queen-sized quilt raffled off by Okefenokee REMC, raising \$1,571.91 for the Pinky Promise Foundation in Callahan.

Kathy Maley, a volunteer at Pinky Promise, purchased and gifted the ticket to her friend Gillum, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and about to begin radiation treatments. Maley, Gillum and Linda Shiver are part of a foursome (the fourth lives near Asheville, North Carolina) that have been friends since fifth grade and plan regular girls' trips together. "These are my girls," Gillum enthused as she was presented with the quilt and expressed thanks to her friends who were there to support her.

Maley was beyond thrilled her friend's ticket was drawn from the more than 300 purchased during the month of February from OREMC offices, Pinky Promise Founder Sybil Purvis and the Westside Journal. OREMC received the quilt as a donation from Joanne Pooler, who took up quilting over 30 years ago, and very much enjoys making and gifting her works of art to hospitals for babies, cancer survivors and veterans. "This quilt was not the first item Joanne



had donated to OREMC," explains OREMC Member Communications/Marketing Coordinator Michele Hutchins, CCC, "but it was such a significant gift I thought it needed to benefit and showcase just the right cause. Pinky Promise Foundation seemed the perfect fit as a cancer resource center for women. All services and items are offered free of charge and the boutique is staffed by volunteers serving our local communities. Its mission dovetails nicely with OREMC's founding principle of concern for the community."



The Pinky Promise Foundation is located in the Harper Rose Cottage, on US HWY 301, directly across the street from Callahan Elementary School. It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.

– 2 p.m. For more information, visit: [pinkypromisefoundation.org](http://pinkypromisefoundation.org) or call 904-626-2855.

## Spring Plant Sale

The Callahan Garden Club is hosting a Spring Plant Sale Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The sale will be held at the Garden Club House at 45251 Fourth Avenue, Callahan. A variety of plants will be available as well as Garden Club members who can give you planting advice. The sale will be rescheduled if it rains. Come by and pick up some plants and support your Callahan Garden Club. You will be inspired!



## Be the Change NE FL



Be the Change Northeast Florida will hold the grand reopening of their expanded flea market store on Saturday, March 12 from 9 to 3 p.m. There will be free balloons, our free prize wheel and free pictures with the Easter Bunny! Please come out to the Pecan Park Flea Market and support Be the Change by making some purchases at our booth.

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**ESTATE SALE: FRIDAY & SATURDAY**, 9 a.m. until? and March 18 & 19 from 9 a.m. until? 3784 Charles Green Road, Hilliard. 31722

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY**, 8 a.m. until? 44881 Swallowfork Avenue, off US 301, Callahan. Dishes, pool table & accessories, odds & ends, everything must go! Too much to list!

**MULTIPLE FAMILY YARD SALE, FRIDAY & SATURDAY**, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 34440 Old Baldwin Road (off Sandy Ford Rd.), Callahan. Bikes, Rae Dunn, luggage sets, glassware, dishes, tools, clothes, smokers. Something for everyone!

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Life Care Center of Hilliard now hiring **RNs and LPNs**, must have FL License. Please apply in person to: 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard or fax resume to 904-845-9487, or email to: Loren\_Reddish@lcca.com<mailto:Loren\_Reddish@lcca.com>. tfn

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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NASSAU COUNTY** is now hiring four Program Assistants for afterschool programs at the Journey Church in Hilliard. To apply visit: bgcnassau.org/employment. 33122

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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.*

### Friday, February 25

John E. Boggs, 53, 27017 Kristie Circle, Hilliard: Sale of Methamphetamine (x 2)

Lorie Ann Barber, 55, 441168 Sandy Ford Road, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine

Jessica Lynn Grass, 29, 46655 Sauls Road, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance; DUI; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Celia Leeann Bell, 42, 28134 Friendly Place, Hilliard: Introduction Contraband to Jail Facility; DUI; Possession Marijuana less than 20 grams

### Sunday, February 27

Michael Copeland Parramore, 36, 43436 Ratliff Road, Callahan: Possession of a Weapon by Convicted Felon

## Genealogy Tidbits

*Claude Arpen*

With St. Patrick's Day approaching, I think the most famous Irish family in America was President John F. Kennedy's family. There is not much information on the Kennedy ancestry. The earliest ancestor I could find was Patrick Kennedy born in 1785. His mother's maiden name was Fitzgerald. According to Wikipedia, the Fitzgeralds were Earls and Dukes of counties Kildare and Desmond since the 13th century.

Closer to home, our Nassau County pioneer family, the O'Neills, have descendants living in our community today. But the one that is the most fun, is a fictional character Scarlet O'Hara, in the book *Gone With the Wind*, written by Margaret Mitchell, Margaret's grandmother was a Fitzgerald.

Wishing you a Happy St. Patrick's Day and don't forget to wear your green as you celebrate with Irish family and friends.

To learn more, come and join us at the West Nasau Genealogical Society meetings, the second Monday (March 14) of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcome!

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**LORRAINE MALES**



Lorraine Males, 77, of Callahan, passed away peacefully March 1, 2022 at her home. Lorraine was born November 26, 1944, in Lawtey, Florida to the late Charlie Ruff Blalock and Rena Griffis Blalock. Lorraine and the love of her life, John M. Males, were married for 47 wonderful years and together they had six children. She has been a resident of Callahan for the past 35 years. Lorraine dedicated almost 30 years to the Nassau County School Board working as a custodian and retired in 2010. Lorraine was a faithful member of Boulogne Holiness Church in Hilliard. She enjoyed worshipping and attending services there. There was nothing more important to Lorraine than her family and she loved spending time with them. She always made you feel welcome and when she said, "make yourself at home," she truly meant it. Lorraine was a true treasure and will forever be missed. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband John M. Males; son Ronnie Sites; and daughter Brenda Sites.

Lorraine leaves behind her loving children, Barbara (David) Terrell, Lori (Bryan) King, George (Elaine) James and Richard (Angie) James; siblings, Leroy Blalock, Franklin Blalock and Rosie Morgan; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

The pallbearers were Bryan King, Leroy Blalock, Shawn King, Richard James, Michael James and Marshall James.

The family received friends Sunday, March 6 at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Lorraine's life was held Monday, March 7 at Boulogne Holiness Church with Bro. Andrew Gillis officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery.

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

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

**OBITUARIES**

**THOMAS EDWARD MEANS**



Thomas Edward Means, 55, of Callahan, suddenly passed away February 28, 2022. He was born May 7, 1966 to Charles Edward Means and Marceil Hulst Rodgers in St. Louis, Missouri. Thomas later moved to Orange Park, where he grew up. He graduated from Orange Park High School in 1984 then achieved his Bachelor of Science Degree and Business Degree from the University of Florida. Thomas enjoyed coaching soccer and had done so for over 10 years. He coached both of his sons at the Callahan Soccer Club. Thomas was an avid Florida Gators and Jacksonville Jaguar fan. To say he was a generous man would be an understatement. Thomas was a loving person and had the biggest heart anyone has ever known. He was the epitome of the perfect husband, father, son and friend. Thomas never went a day without telling those around him that he loved them. He supported his wife and family with whatever they wanted to do. Thomas was a proud and prideful father to his beautiful daughter and two handsome sons. He opened his heart and home to many bonus children and loved them all as if they were his own. Thomas was a man who never raised his voice. He was fond of telling his sons about his childhood days where he grew up on Robinette Drive in Orange Park. He found himself mesmerized every time he heard his daughter sing. Thomas was a man who would help anyone at any time without question. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Thomas is survived by his loving wife of 22 years, Amyjo Means; daughter Kelsey Means; sons TJ (Kayla) Walker and Brendan Means; bonus children Amanda (Stephan), Bobby (Hayleigh), Terrell (Theresa), Daniel (Kristen), Will, Cody, Wyatt, Josh x2 and Kerry; sisters Cyndie, Mary, Tina

and Anne; mother-in-law Pamela (Michael) Tipping; sisters-in-law Julie (Jerome) Wooten, Rose (Jim) Hammons and Kristina (Steve) Bond; brothers-in-law Charlie (Jessica) Adams and James (Desiree) Kerun; bonus sisters Scarlett, Nancy and Tracey (Bobby); granddaughter, due this month Kynley Ann; bonus grandchildren Leland, Brantley, Roslyn, Trey, William, Kamara and Kayden; and several nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

A celebration of Thomas's life was held Monday, March 7 at Nassau Funeral Home with Gaynelle James officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to the Tom Means Memorial Fund, that's being established to fund scholarships for the West Nassau High School boys' soccer team.

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

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

**CHARLOTTE YVONNE MINOR**



Charlotte Yvonne Minor, 57, of Jacksonville, passed away on February 24, 2022. She was born August 6, 1964, in Jacksonville, to the late Benjamin Dedmon and Carolyn Sweat Dedmon. Charlotte was raised in Callahan and graduated from West Nassau High School in 1982. She married the love of her life, Bryan Minor, on June 5, 1999, and they have enjoyed the past 22 years of marriage. Charlotte worked in the insurance field for 40 years; the last 8 years at Florida Blue. She was a faithful member of Oceanway Assembly of God and enjoyed attending services there. In her spare time, Charlotte loved spending time at the beach looking for shark's teeth. She was a very selfless person, always putting others first and always willing to lend a helping hand. Charlotte had a sweet spirit, loved life and loved to put a smile on someone's face. She

will be missed dearly. Charlotte is preceded in death by her parents.

Charlotte leaves behind her husband, Bryan Minor; daughter Amanda Lynne Phelan; son Gabriel Minor; siblings Bruce Dedmon and Mary Charlene Dedmon; grandchildren Jady, Brylynn, Jace.

The family received friends Friday, March 4 at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Charlotte's life was held Saturday, March 5 also at the funeral home with Pastor Jon Coad officiating. Interment followed in Keen Cemetery.

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

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

**BOBBY HUGH RICHARDSON**



Bro. Bobby Hugh Richardson, 91, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, March 3, 2022. He was born on October 16, 1930 to the late Hugh Richardson and Peggy Richardson in the city of Gadsden in the great state of Alabama. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Florida Baptist Bible Institute and attended FSU. He was the Pastor at First Baptist Church in Hilliard for over 25 years and after retirement served as interim pastor for a number of churches in the area. He was named Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church of Hilliard. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Joyce Richardson.

He is survived by his three children William Roger (Karen) Richardson, Kathy Ann (Del) Conner and Karen (Craig) Conner; grandchildren Corey Richardson, Ryan (Kim) Richardson, Joyia Conner, Twain Conner, Jeremy Conner, Brenton (Victoria) Conner and Casey (Roger) Clark; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Sunday, March 6 at the First Baptist Church in Hilliard. The funeral service was held Monday, March 7 also at the church with Rev. Ryan Mason officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery.

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

**DINWIDDIE FAMILY THANK YOU**

We would like to thank everyone so much for your kind words and cards to help comfort us during the loss of our beloved family patriarch, Theodore (Ted) Dinwiddie. Thank you for the beautiful flowers, food and drinks that helped to keep us nourished. We also appreciated your in-home visits and attendance at the services. We are truly grateful for your love and support for our family. May God continue to bless you and your family.

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# OBITUARIES

## DORIS PEARL THORNTON



Doris Pearl Thornton, 80, of Bryceville, passed away Saturday, February 12, 2022 at her home with her family by her side. She was born July 23, 1941 in Jacksonville to the late Mr. Everett and Lucille (Fouraker) Surrency. Ms. Doris loved to prepare meals and tend to her family and was a dedicated mother and wife for many years. She attended Bryceville First Baptist Church when she was in better health.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Wayne Surrency; children David Thornton, Lorie Lee Thornton and Mary Denise Hutto; and her beloved husband of 60 years Clarence Thornton.

She leaves behind to cherish the memories, her daughters Dorothy (David) Gomillion and Michele Thornton, all of Bryceville; grandchildren Shane (Tori) Gomillion, Krissi (Larry) Gomillion, David (Brittany) Gomillion, Jessie (Reyna Roland) Aman, Christopher (Kendra) Thornton, Sonny (Beth) Aman, Hailey (Reese Hollie) Hutto, Cody (Amber Watson) Hutto and Brittany Hutto; great-grandchildren Lucas Gomillion, Lane Gomillion, Lauren Steinmeyer, Savannah Gomillion, Charlotte Gomillion, Lawson Aman, Aubrey Thornton, Tyler Aman, Raylon Aman, Jayden Hutto and Shailey Williamson; siblings Bill (Wanda) Surrency of Bryceville, Riley Surrency and Becky Surrency Nettles, both of Callahan; as well

as extended family.

A graveside service was held Friday, February 18 at South Prong Cemetery with Rev. Paul Abernathy and Rev. Richard Fish officiating.

Forbes Funeral Home were honored to assist with the arrangements.

## ALBERT JACKSON TYNER, JR.



Albert Jackson (Jack) Tyner, Jr., 73, of Callahan, passed away on February 7, 2022. He was born in Orlando, Florida to the late Albert Tyner, Sr. and Mary Spivey Tyner Wells September 12, 1948. Jack proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era. Jack enjoyed fishing, watching Gator football and cooking. He loved nothing more than cooking for his family and friends. Jack was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother Jerry A. Tyner.

Jack leaves behind his beloved wife of 38 years, Margaret Sharp Tyner; his son Christopher W. Tyner (Claire King); his granddaughter Charlotte Mae King; his sister Judith Addison; and several special nieces and nephews.

A graveside services will be held Friday, March 18 at 2 p.m. at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, 4083 Lannie Road, with Military Honors.

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, 904-879-2336.

## Influencing the Future

Women of Influence (WOI) is a student club established at West Nassau High School. The American Business Women's Association (ABWA), Eight Flags Charter Chapter, has been working to help women succeed in

Nassau County for more than 52 years. Together, they have partnered to provide young women with more opportunities for success through leadership mentorship. Now, they are planning their First Annual Influencing the Future Dinner/Auction Fundraiser to offer two college scholarships for deserving young women who are graduating from West Nassau High School this spring.

The fundraiser dinner and live Auction is set for Friday, March 25 at Wildlight Elementary School, 50 Curiosity Ave, Yulee. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The dinner and program start at 6 p.m. The event features a delicious dinner, entertainment, and a live auction. The public can buy tickets for \$35 each by visiting: [www.abwaeightflags.org](http://www.abwaeightflags.org).

"Being able to work with such influential women in the community has been an incredible experience full of knowledge, leadership and mentorship. They have helped us realize that we are all capable of anything and everything," said Ana Rodriguez, WNHS student and Co-chair of the fundraiser.

"I am blown away by the incredible partnership between the women of ABWA and our students of WOI. These young women are mentored by the best of the best, preparing them for advanced



education, careers, and leadership roles. I can't thank the women of ABWA enough for pouring encouragement, opportunity, and guidance into the hearts and minds of our students," says Janet Hild, WNHS Faculty Sponsor.

"We were honored when this group of talented and industrious young women reached out to us in May of 2021," said Lillie Rogers, ABWA Eight Flags chapter president.

Sponsors of the event include The Barn at Cottonwood Ranch in Callahan; M.A.E. Contracting, LLC Callahan, Courtyard Marriott/SpringHill Suites Fernandina Beach, Coastal Cottage Amelia, Giro di Mondo Publishing Fernandina Beach, and Rosewood Estates Sales Yulee.

Sponsorship opportunities for area business to showcase themselves are: \$500 Gold; \$250 Silver; \$100 Bronze; Friends & Supporters cash donors of \$25 to \$99. Non-Cash Donations Auction items are welcome and encouraged. To purchase sponsorships, visit: [www.abwaeightflags.org](http://www.abwaeightflags.org).

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## Friends of NRA Gun Raffle

Nassau County Friends of NRA event will be held Saturday, March 19 at 5 p.m. at the Multi-purpose Building at the Fairgrounds. 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 [ncfnra01@gmail.com](mailto:ncfnra01@gmail.com).

Gun Raffle: \$20 per ticket for a chance to win: a Ruger American Ranch Rifle .350 Legend, a Weatherby Element Synthetic Tungsten 12ga Shotgun, a Savage Axis II 30-06 Overwatch Camo, and a Fireproof Gun Safe. Tickets are available at the Westside Journal office in Callahan, 450034 State Road 200.

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## Creating Book Covers at CIS



Students at Callahan Intermediate School recently created book covers from cereal boxes during Literacy Week.

## CMS Author's Mural

For Literacy Week, Callahan Middle School had an Author's Mural contest where students decorated their classroom doors with a theme inspired by a particular author. Our three winners were Mrs. Mizenkos' class, Mr. P. Arnold's class and Mrs. Harter's class.



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