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WESTSIDE JOURNAL



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VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 34

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

"DON'T JUST PRETEND TO LOVE OTHERS. REALLY LOVE THEM. HATE WHAT IS WRONG.
HOLD TIGHTLY TO WHAT IS GOOD." - ROMANS 12:9

Nassau Extension Announces New Agriculture Agent

First Class March 28

Nassau County Extension Service is proud to announce the new Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent, David Hebert. David looks forward to sharing his knowledge with growers and producers to meet the county's needs. His educational background is agronomy, plant pathology and agricultural biology.

David will conduct his first class titled Organic Matter "A Wellness Check for Your Soil." Much of the soil in Florida is sandy and has little organic matter. Learn about organic matter and how it is important for soil and how to properly test and amend your soil. The class will be held Monday, March 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the multi-use building at the Fairgrounds, 543350 US Highway 1, Callahan. The cost is



\$5 pre-registration; or \$10 at the door (covers materials and hors d'oeuvres). The registration deadline is Friday March 25. The pre-registration link is: <https://bit.ly/3CedSyh>. For more information email: David.hebert@ufl.edu or call Laura at 904-530-6353.

Hilliard High School Names New Head Football Coach

Dawn S. West

Hilliard Middle Senior High School administration called a special meeting Wednesday afternoon to announce the new Head Football Coach. After posting the position, a committee interviewed three candidates for the position.

HMSHS Athletic Director Jason Collins opened the announcement in front of a crowd of football players and parents. "We have made a decision. This person has the football IQ and is looking forward to the opportunity to continue to help our teams grow and prosper," said Collins. "You've seen things he has done with our offense already. We're proud to announce Waylon Cox as our Head Coach."



"I'm very excited about this opportunity. I've been with this program for 3 years. My goal is to help these kids develop physically, mentally, emotionally and academically," said Cox. "Anyone who knows me knows I'm all football, 24/7. My motto is to outwork everyone. I was always

taught to get to work. I want to instill that in our players. We have to outwork the other coaches and teams. I want to teach these players how to compete. That's how we win! It all starts in the weight room. I've seen what it means for a player to continue to strengthen their bodies."

Coach Cox has been assistant coach for three years for the Flashes varsity football team.

Mullin Retires Amid Scandal

Roger R. West

After four years of back and forth litigation between Nassau County and Rayonier's subsidiary Raydient (Wildlight Developers), County Attorney Mike Mullin will retire from his position with the county effective March 31, 2022. A memo from the 4th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's office concluded Mullin broke the law while dealing with Raydient Properties.

The state found evidence that Mullin indeed committed criminal acts by allowing a failure to preserve public records, failing to truthfully and timely respond to Raydient's public records request, and allowing deletions of text messages that should have been public record. The State Attorney's Office released a 10-page memo acknowledging that Mullin's acts are considered criminal. The criminal charge is a misdemeanor violation of State laws requiring all government agencies to retain and provide access to public records.

The memo from the State reads, "The evidence supports criminal violations of Florida public records law and Mullin has disqualified himself from service as county attorney." The memo also stated that the State Attorney's Office agreed to forgo criminal prosecution in exchange for Mullin's resignation.

On Monday, March 14, Mullin delivered a formal letter to Nassau County Commission Chairman Aaron Bell, announcing his intent to retire effective "the last day of March, 2022." This came one day before the release of the State Attorney's Office memo declaring their findings of criminal acts by Mullin. On Tuesday, March 15, 2022 Mullin released a statement through a communication representative: "My decision to retire and the reasons set forth in my letter of

March 14, 2022 stand as stated. I have reviewed the state attorney's statement released today and with all due respect, I strongly disagree with those findings. The messages which are the subject of the civil suits, were turned over to the requestors beginning in January 2019 and also provided to the State Attorney's Office in March of 2019. In addition, I drafted new procedures for maintaining and addressing personal messages on private devices. The procedures are set forth in an ordinance adopted in the fall of 2019. The ordinance placed all public record requests and maintenance under the County Attorney's Office. These procedures remain in effect today. While I do not want to be a distraction for the County, I do want to reiterate my appreciation to have represented Nassau County, Florida."

The Westside Journal also received a press release from Rayonier: *Rayonier is grateful for the State Attorney's Office's efforts seeking accountability for the crimes committed against Rayonier, Raydient and the citizens of Nassau County. Rayonier raised its concerns regarding Mullin's conduct years ago, but instead of taking simple steps to mitigate the issues, the County ignored them and instead gave Mullin more control over County affairs, doubling his salary in the process. Rayonier is disappointed that the County failed to act on their own to remove a clearly compromised County Attorney, all the while wasting tax dollars litigating to defend his bad advice and him personally in multiple litigation matters. Even now, the County continues to waste significant resources defending Mullin, despite several judicial decisions finding his advice to be wrong and, according to the State Attorney's Office, criminal.*

Spring Plant Sale Saturday!

The Callahan Garden Club is hosting a Spring Plant Sale Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at 45251 Fourth Avenue, Callahan. A variety of plants will be available as well as Garden Club members who can give you planting advice. RAIN or SHINE!

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A Word From the Publisher

What a different weekend! We had extremely warm temperatures and then ended up Sunday morning with a light freeze. Only in Florida can we be resilient enough to handle it. I know the rain was difficult for many. As for our home, our pond has returned to full again. Beginning the spring time warm temperatures with a below normal pond is not good. Of course all day Saturday, I think we had whitecaps in it! That wind was brutal.

On the other hand it was a beautiful weekend! We (my family) celebrated my mom's 90th birthday. Oh my, I'm so thankful for her and thankful that she is actually doing great. She has had her share of health issues but has really been working it all out and feeling good. Even though she has had issues, she never makes a fuss about it. I've told her so many times that her pain threshold is super high. Some of the



pain she has endured has been crazy. She dealt with trigeminal neuralgia for several years, even after it was diagnosed. That was an unimaginable pain that I don't want to see anyone go through. But my mom was such a trooper. Thankfully, once she had the very serious surgery to hopefully take care of it, she hasn't had that pain again. We were just aggravated that she didn't have it earlier...but not mom. "It was

all God's timing, not mine."

Oh how blessed I am to have a Godly mother (parents). With almost every conversation we have, God is brought into the discussion. I've often told her she is an angel. I am the baby of five and I'm still pretty attached to my parents. Too many times I've called mom, just to hear her voice. Quickly, she asks, "What's wrong?" I'm trying to learn that trait and do it with grace as Mom does. Somehow she never has that 'tone' that I have. Her voice is always the same. Roger has told me I act a lot like my mom but I sure do have a lot of Jim in me too!

With each card I (we) receive from mom, it includes a Bible verse and a God be with you, salutation. Her main concern for her family is that we all know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, as

this is how all of us as Christians should be. Jesus is waiting for everyone to ask Him into their heart. As time continues to fly by, every minute is important not lived for Christ. Fortunately for me, I was raised in a Christian home by Christian parents with Christian values. Pretty simple, treat everyone as you want to be treated with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It sounds like a lot but isn't that the way we should all live? What an amazing world God has given us to live in. His mercy is new every morning... just look out your window each day. Thank you Jesus! Remember, Jesus is the only answer for a broken world. Ask Him in today.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

In the Kitchen...

2-3 cucumbers
1 small onion
2 tablespoons vinegar

Cube cucumbers and chop onion. Mix all ingredients thoroughly. Makes about 4 servings.

Granny's Cucumber Salad

2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1/2 teaspoon salt

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Driggers Places 2nd as Junior Angler

Darren Driggers, 12, of Callahan, finished in 2nd Place in the 2022 El Cheapo Junior Angler tournament held last weekend in Jacksonville. Darren's Sheepshead weighed in at 7.2 pounds. His proud parents are Stephen and Abby Driggers. Congratulations!

FSCJ Selected by Amazon as an Education Partner

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) has been selected as an education partner for Amazon's Career Choice program, providing Amazon's hourly employees access to any Associate in Science or bachelor's degree program. In addition, Amazon employees can choose to enroll in one of the selected fast-track career certificate or technical certificate programs in industries such as automotive, aviation, health care and information technology, including an Amazon-only cohort Patient Care Technician program. A complete list of programs is available at fscj.edu/amazon.

Amazon's Career Choice program is an education benefit that empowers employees to learn new skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. The program meets

individual learners where they are on their education journey through a variety of education and upskilling opportunities. In the U.S., the company is investing \$1.2 billion to upskill more than 300,000 employees by 2025 to help move them into higher-paying, in-demand jobs.

Amazon's Career Choice program has a rigorous selection process for third-party partner educators, choosing partners that are focused on helping employees through their education programs, assisting them with job placements, and overall offering education that leads to career success.

For more information visit: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/career-choice>.

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans monthly meeting will be held Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Pig Barbecue in Callahan. If you are interested in Southern history, you are invited to attend.

Free Quit Tobacco Classes! Wednesday, March 23, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Barnabas Center Fernandina, 1303 Jasmine St., Ste. 101 Fernandina. Registration: Call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

It's extremely clear already that Joe Biden doesn't know how to build anything except despair and ruination. His political platform of "Build Back Better" has been worse than a bull in a China shop! I have never heard 81 million people be so quiet. In all honesty, can you actually think of one positive thing that he has done since being installed in the White House? Yes, I mean installed, just like you install a toilet and that pretty much describes his presidency.

Just look at what he has done to our energy resources. In just over a year, we have gone from energy independence to energy dependence. Instead of exporting fuel, we are buying fuel from our enemies. Biden claims his policies have no bearing on the energy crisis, another of his numerous lies. He states there are plenty of oil permits available to the oil companies but are not being utilized. This is true, however the reason they are not being utilized is because the stringent regulations that he has placed on drilling would be a financial disaster to the oil companies. Why would they approach these leases knowing they are going to lose money?

Biden was totally upfront about his war on fossil fuels during his campaign. He ran his whole campaign on destroying the energy industry. Renewable energy is all he can vision, which sounds good; however as good as it sounds it is not anywhere feasible. Solar, wind and other renewables are simply not capable of meeting the high energy demands of modern day living! As Kangmin Lee states, "When prices of energy goes up, everything goes

up. Our economy is built on energy for production and distribution. All products are manufactured using energy. Shelves at stores will be more barren. It'll only get worse before it can get better. All the Biden administration, Democrats and uni-party establishment care about is bulldozing through whatever globalist agenda to introduce the Great Reset at the expense of the American people so that we will own nothing and be happy."

According to the Western Journal, in Joe Biden's America, getting less is happening a whole lot more. The economist's label for what's happening to product after product is called "shrinkflation." It takes place when inflation of the kind Biden's team said it was transitory until it wasn't, starts making all the raw materials in a product cost more. Rather than make consumers pay more for the same amount of a product, something no one likes, some manufactures reduce the size of what they sell while holding the price steady. This is just a sneaky way for companies to raise the price. People will notice a price increase more readily than a few less chips in a bag or a decreased liquid amount in the container. Frito-Lays are already reducing the amount of Doritos in their 9.75 ounce bag to 9.25 ounces, but the price remains the same. Other companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Mondelez (Nabisco) and Pepsi have also started similar measures. This would not be happening if they thought this inflation was transitory. Fasten your seatbelts and hold on, we are in for the ride of our lives.

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

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Who Are We Witnessing For?

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



One of the most common arguments that lost people use to justify their refusal to follow Jesus is the hypocrisy of those that profess to be followers of Christ. In 1 Corinthians, chapters 5 and 6, Paul refers to two different occurrences where some in the church body were sinning in such a way “...that is not tolerated even among pagans.” (1 Cor 5:2). In chapter 6 Paul addresses a problem where church members are pressing lawsuits because other members of the church were “defrauding” them even though they were acting the same way themselves (v.7). They were more concerned with themselves than acting as a child of God should.

We have the same things going on in the Body of Christ today. The effect on church unity is alarming. Yet, more important is the effect this has on our witness for Christ. Scripture reminds us that we were washed, sanctified, and justified by Jesus Christ (1 Cor 6:11). We were bought with a price (1 Cor 6:28). Paul also reminds the Corinthians something that we too need to be reminded of. We know how we should be witnessing for Christ’s glory, yet many chose to witness only when it is convenient. We cannot pick and choose; we must be consistent. We must act like washed, sanctified, and justified followers of Christ.

The Gospel of Christ is a loving, accepting, inclusive Gospel. Jesus does not discriminate because of where we are from, how much money we have, who our friends are or what language we speak. If this is true of the Gospel of Christ and we as His followers are called to share the Good News, shouldn’t we act like it? How we live our lives is our witness. If we are judgmental and critical of those around us, the lost who are witnessing our behavior will think that all Christians behave this way. If we simply go to church on Sunday professing our love for Christ, then on Monday profess our love for our flesh through worldly behavior, we are missing the point.

Being a disciple of Christ means that we are doing our very best to be disciplined. We are showing whoever may be watching that the Holy Spirit of God is alive inside us. That Jesus is shaping us into loving, caring, people who want to bless and love on others. We must be ready to accept those who have experienced rejection. We must love those who have been spurned and cast aside. We must also be prepared to love whomever the Lord Jesus Christ puts in our path. Worldly concerns of ego, popular reputation, social standing, and financial security are distractions that the enemy will use to spoil our witness to the lost. Do not let the devil win!

Those of us that have given our lives to Christ should act like it. Our witness should be consistent, loving, accepting and have no part in worldly concerns. Be the living testimony to the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus not just today, but every day.

FSCJ’s DramaWorks to Perform

Florida State College at Jacksonville’s (FSCJ) DramaWorks will present a new script based on another collaboration between Tim Gilmore, FSCJ Professor of English and Ken McCulough, FSCJ Professor of Theatre. This will be Professor Ken McCulough’s 55th production with FSCJ DramaWorks and will be his last show at FSCJ as he retires this year.

About the play and the production: The Mad Atlas of Virginia King tells the true story of the strange and urgent woman who tried to capture the city of Jacksonville, Florida in a single book. She marched across town daily, taking crooked and blurred photographs of old buildings about to be demolished. She wrote several versions of her book, the last containing more than 8,000 pages. Few people knew what she was up to,



but they took cover when they saw her coming.

The FSCJ DramaWorks production of “The Mad Atlas of Virginia King” features 14 student and alumni actors and eight student crew members from all areas of the First Coast and directed by Professor of Theatre Ken McCulough.

The drama will be held at FSCJ-South Campus, Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts, 11901 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, March 31, April 1 & 2 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the general public; and \$5 for FSCJ faculty/staff and students (2 tickets per valid FSCJ ID) in advance. Otherwise, \$10 at the door. For information and ticket reservations, call (904) 646-2222.

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Barnabas at the Fairgrounds 543378 US Hwy. 1 • Callahan
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CHURCH NEWS

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH will be selling Spaghetti Dinners this Friday, March 18 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.

North Hilliard Baptist Church will have a BBQ (ribs & pulled pork) Dinner sale, \$10/per plate, Sat., March 26 at the traffic light in Hilliard on the corner of CR 108 and US 1 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Preorders are available by calling 845-2515 option 3.



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Financially Fighting Back - High Gas Prices Part One

Yvette Outler

Last year Florida's average gas price was \$2.93 a gallon. Now with the steady increase of gas prices we face the question, "How can I afford these prices?" Since I cannot control gas prices, I am challenged to look at what I can control.

Ways to fight back:

1. Carpool – even if your friend or neighbor does not work at your same location you can still work out the details and plan accordingly. Alternate days or weeks of driving and paying for gas. You may only be able to rideshare for one or two days a week. Savings is savings. The more people in one car the more savings. Do not be quick to dismiss this idea. Give yourself permission to "test" this idea to see if you like it.

2. One trip versus three – Grocery shopping needs to be more intentional: one time a week, or twice a month. Use a list and stick to it. Pro tip: Look high and low. The highest priced items are at eye level and the best deals are on the outside of the aisles.

3. Pharmacy – If you take monthly prescriptions, use your time and gas wisely by utilizing your grocery store pharmacy to avoid another stop.

4. Buy in bulk – Consider bulk buying for things like toilet paper, detergent and large family packs of meat. The fewer trips, the more gas saved! Pro tip: I buy the large packs of meat and divide it into several meals. I



wrap each meal's worth of meat in Glad Press and Seal. It wraps the meat tightly to avoid freezer burn, plus I can see what meat I have wrapped.

5. Use help provided – First Baptist Church of Callahan, The Storehouse: Free food is available twice a month, the first (10:00 a.m. - Noon) and third (4:30-6:30 p.m.) Thursday of every month. Gracie's Kitchen: Drive through and receive a hot meal for your family for free! Located at the old Yulee Middle School (86029 Pages Dairy Road, Yulee, Florida) Offered 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 4:30-6 p.m. All of us need help sometime.

Next week I will give you part two of ways to fight back. If you have ideas that are successfully working for you, please share them with me.

Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Master Solutions Financial Coach. If you need help getting out of debt, contact her at fiscallyfree7@gmail.com for a free consultation.

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April 3rd - 11am - Free Admission

Sportsman's Sunday is an opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate our Creator and His creation. This is a family focused event. We will be offering a challenging Bible message, outdoor related booths and activities, free BBQ lunch, and prizes. Join us for fellowship and fun!

Show off your best trophy whitetail mount!
Bring in your best whitetail deer mount for display and you will be entered into a drawing for a special prize.



Our speaker at this year's event is Mitchell Johnston. Mitchell is a multiple time World and National Turkey Calling Champion. He is also the Founder and CEO of Dead End Game Calls. He is sponsored by Mossy Oak, a spokesman for the National Wild Turkey Federation and an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ.



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*Must be present to win prizes. Those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Any firearms awarded are subject to all background checks.

New Beginnings and Milestones

Lavern Meeks Celebrates 91st Birthday



Lavern Higginbotham Meeks celebrated her 91st birthday March 7. Mrs. Lavern is a longtime Callahan resident and is always willing to help out when she can. She enjoys volunteering on Wednesday nights for the Callahan community dinner. She is a member of Callahan First United Methodist Church and is thankful for her church family. She is one special lady. She enjoys getting together with her friends and playing cards! She can be seen many times around town and also with her son David. She celebrated her special milestone in many ways, from having dinner with friends, to sharing a special dinner with family! “I am a very blessed woman and so thankful for my family and friends,” said Lavern.

Julia Stearn Celebrates 90th Birthday



Julia Stearn, of Kingsland, Georgia, celebrated her 90th birthday March 12. She was born March 12, 1932 in Sequim, Washington. Being born during the depression, her parents traveled the country searching for work, as her father was a millwright. They later settled in Arkansas. She graduated from Arkadelphia High School in 1950 as did her sweetheart Jim ‘Dub’ Stearn. The two were married September 8, 1951. Last year, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

She enjoys going to Sunday school and church at the First Baptist Church Kingsland and loves spending time with her family. She enjoyed her special milestone with a family lunch with about 30 of her family members attending!

She and Jim have five children, Dub (deceased) and Carol Stearn of Ft. Walton Beach, Marci and David Scott of Amelia Island, Mark Stearn (Stephanie Titus) of Callahan, Gus and Christie Stearn of Fernandina Beach, and Dawn and Roger West of Hilliard. They also have 12 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

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Eat, Drink & Be Irish Friday

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NCSO Employees of the Year



Shown (l to r) seated are: Camisha Miller, Christa Kornoski, Jayme Woods and Ricky Rowell; standing are: Joseph Hall, Michael Morris, Joshua Carter and Gerald Wollitz

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office held their annual awards ceremony to recognize the 2021 Employees of the Year. NCSO employees, family members and friends attended the ceremony at the Sheriff's Administration Building to honor Sheriff's Office employees and volunteers who did outstanding accomplishments during 2021.

Among those honored were: Volunteer of the Year – Christa Kornoski; Chaplain of the Year – Pastor Gerald Wollitz; Civilian Employee of the Year – Jayme Woods; Communications Officer of the Year – Joseph Hall; Detention Deputy of the year – Deputy Camisha Miller; Patrol Deputy of the year – Deputy Michael Morris; Investigator of the Year – Detective Joshua Carter; Supervisor of the year – Lieutenant Ricky Rowell.

Life Saving Awards were given to Deputy Garth Holton, Deputy Britny Blaz, Deputy Richard Weigle, Deputy

Caleb Delacruz, Deputy Haley Conner, Deputy Chuck Reagor, Deputy Nathan Hilliard, Detective Joshua Carter, Sergeant Jeremy Hyers, Sergeant Monty Wettstein and Lieutenant Joshua Hyers.

Special Recognition Award was given to Pastor Lynn Hyatt of First Baptist Church in Callahan.

Medal Of Honor Award was presented to the family of Deputy Jack Gwynes and Deputy Joshua Moyers who both passed away in the line of duty during 2021.

"We have an extremely talented and dedicated group of law enforcement professionals and support staff who are truly committed to serving the public with professionalism and pride," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "Today's ceremony shows the strength of this agency and the amazing level of service and passion our members have for protecting our community."

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ESTATE SALE: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9 a.m. until? 3784 Charles Green Road, Hilliard.

MOVING SALE! Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m. until? 43405 Ratliff Road, Callahan. Something for everyone, Harley parts, leather, guns, knives, fishing gear, tools, exercise equipment, Vintage Antique car parts, '89 Chevy Truck, furniture, household items, clothes, bikes, downsizing! Priced to go!

MOVING SALE! Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m. until? 17195 Cornerstone Rd., Hilliard. Vintage furniture, Vintage décor, household items, boat, clothing, tools & more!

GARAGE SALE: Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. until? NO Early Birds, Please! 55245 Mt. Olive Rd., Callahan, off of SR 200.

MULTI-FAMILY yard sale! Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 9139 Ford Road, Bryceville. Plus size women's clothes, household items, tiller and much more!

MULTI-FAMILY yard sale! Saturday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Spring Lake Estates, 55060 Deer Run Drive, Callahan. Rain cancels! Lots of tools, women's, men's and children's clothes, depression glass, collectibles, toys, home décor, housewares, large electric kids truck, hair extensions and much more!

VFW YARD SALE! Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. \$5 Clothes and Shoe Bag Day! Rain or shine! Come & help support our Veterans. New donations!

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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, March 7

Dwayne Ray Rageth, 35, 151064 CR 108, Hilliard: Felony Flee/Elude Lights & Sirens; Possession of Methamphetamine

Tuesday, March 8

Kristina Celess Adams Kilpatrick, 39, 2749 Garth Lane, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Tamper/Destroy Evidence

Vincent Lourozo Brown, 54, 3737 Webb Street, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Theft Under; Resist without Violence; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Thursday, March 10

Jackson Twain Conner, 39, 26340 Dempsey Conner Road, Hilliard: Possession of Cocaine; Resist without Violence

American Legion Vandalized Friday

According to the Nassau County Sheriff's office, sometime late Friday night March 11 until early Saturday morning March 12 it appeared someone broke through the back door of the American Legion Post 401 and entered the building sometime between 11:30 p.m. on Friday night when it closed and 8:05 a.m. Saturday morning. An ATM was pried open and a safe was broken into. There was damage to the office door and liquor bottles behind the bar broken. It is unknown how many items were taken with the value until an inventory can be made. The burglary is still under investigation at this time.

The building did have surveillance cameras, but were not functioning

properly. It is unknown at this time if there was any relation to the Hagan Ace Hardware burglary. If anyone knows any information about either burglary, they are asked to contact NCSO Detectives.

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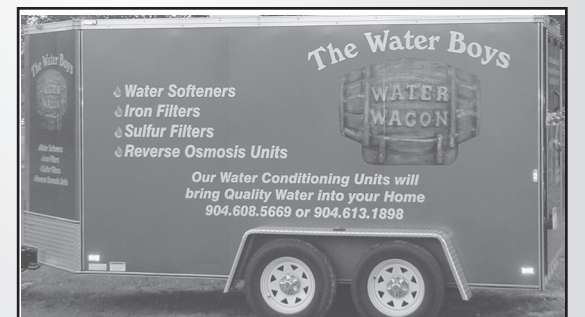
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TONIE WHITE FORD

 Tonie T. White Ford, 40, of Miramar, Florida, transitioned Saturday, March 12, 2022. She was born in Jacksonville to Marilyn Grant and Kendall White. Tonie graduated from Bethune Cookman College and enjoyed a career as a Case Worker with Child Support Services in the State Attorney's Office in Miami. She was married to Erick Ford and was the proud mother of Laila and Erick, Jr. She attended New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church in Miami.

Tonie is survived by her husband Erick; two children Laila and Erick, Jr.; her parents Marilyn (loving stepfather Nathaniel) Grant; and Kendall (Patricia) White; godmother Sandra Stewart of Callahan; two sisters Kendra White and Kristen White; three brothers Quinton Davis, Anthony Jones and Kendall White, Jr.; four aunts Marian Way, Antoinette Telfair; Yolanda White and Rebecca Williams; three uncles Douglas (Danielle) White, Darnelle Williams Wade and Colby Jones; and a host of extended family members and friends.

Visitation will be Friday, March 18 from 5-7 p.m. at Sara Carter Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held Saturday, March 19 at 2 p.m. also at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Callahan Community Cemetery.

FRANK LESLIE GEOGHAGAN

 Frank Leslie Geoghagan, 71 was called home on March 10, 2022. He was born April 18, 1950 in Jacksonville and resided in Hilliard. Frank was a decorated US Marine Veteran who served in Vietnam, US Marine Corps, March 1969 - March 1973; Air National Guard July 1974- February 1993; and retired from the Air National Guard. He received the Good Conduct medal, National Defense Service medal, Vietnam Service medal, Vietnam Campaign medal w/1960 Device, Vietnam Meritorious Unit

OBITUARIES

Citation Civil Actions Color (First Class) and Meritorious Mast.

Frank enjoyed history, outdoors, woodworking, fishing, spending time with his family, outdoor photography, baseball, collecting coins, telling stories of his military days and just going for a joy ride around town. Frank was predeceased by his loving parents Doris Alexander Geoghagan and Leroy Geoghagan; his nephew Jack Farhat, Jr.; as well as his grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Frank is survived by his son Joshua (Danielle) Geoghagan; two granddaughters Janelle and Brielle Geoghagan; two sisters Cyndi Geoghagan Schmidt and Susan Geoghagan (Jack) Farhat; nephews Daniel Geoghagan, Ian Farhat, David Farhat and Donald (Hannah) Edwards; and his niece Dr. Sharon (Nick) McCartney; as well as their extended family and many friends.

The family will receive friends Thursday, March 24 at 11 am prior to the Memorial Service at noon at Hardage-Giddens Oak Lawn Chapel & Oak Lawn Cemetery, 4801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.


Hardage-Giddens Oak Lawn Chapel assisted the family.

Elsa is survived by her loving children Melvin Hamilton, Thomas Hamilton, Norma (Vernon) Thomas and Donna (Mike) Merwin; grandchildren Timothy (Dana) Thomas, Jeffrey (Michelle) Thomas, Amy Hamilton, Allen Hamilton, Mark (Amber) Jones and Katelyn Jones; great-grandchildren Ethan Thomas, Jaden Jones, Riley Thomas and Maxwell Johnson.


A celebration of Elsa's life was held March 15 at Gardenview Baptist Church.

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

ELSA AUDINE HAMILTON

 Elsa Audine Hamilton, 91, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord on March 10, 2022. She was born on September 9, 1930, in Franklin, Pennsylvania to the late Leo J. Titus and Geraldine Vogus Titus. Elsa was very devoted in her faith in the Lord. She thoroughly enjoyed attending services and worshipping at Gardenview Baptist Church. Elsa was a simple woman who loved going to Silver Sneakers, playing cards and watching television shows such as The Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. She was a very beloved wife, mother,

JERRY RAY HOLTON

 Jerry Ray Holton, 78, of Baxley, Georgia, passed away Friday, March 4, 2022 at Appling Healthcare.

Mr. Holton was born April 3, 1943 in Appling County to the late John Randolph "J.R." Holton and the late Ennis Elizabeth Carter Holton. He was the Pastor of Out of Your Comfort Zone Tent Revival for eight years and a member of the Appling County Ministerial Alliance. In addition, Mr. Holton was involved in the Holton Racing Team #34 from 1975 until 1996. He was a Master Automotive Technician and Mechanist, and an Auto Trader book distributor for 10 years in southeast Georgia. In addition to his parents; Mr. Holton was preceded in death by his brother John David Holton.

Survivors include his wife, Belinda Holton of Baxley; daughters Belinda and Randy Horton of Callahan, Cindy Balkcom and Scott Raley of Macclenny and Mary Ann Peacock of Jacksonville; sons Eddie and Christy Holton of Callahan, Robert and Jessica Peacock of St. Marys and Charles Peacock, III of Macclenny; brothers Quip "Pete" and Susie Holton and Dale and Judy Holton, all of Callahan; grandchildren


April (Thomas) Collins, Hailey Ray, Anna Simmons, Rachael (Andy) Miller, Tiffany (Brett) Watson, Jacob Horton, Chase Cumby, Jovonté Edwards, Javaris Edwards, Jazmyne Edwards, Charles Peacock, IV and Breana Peacock; and 13 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held March 8 at the Out of Your Comfort Zone Tent Revival with Rev. Matthew Quinn, Rev. Josh Tillman, Rev. Ronny Moore and Rev. Paul Hodge officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

Active pallbearers were Jacob Horton, Chase Cumby, Jovonté Edwards, Javaris Edwards, Timmy Mullis, and Charles Peacock, IV. Honorary pallbearers were Mr. Holton's great-grandchildren Addison Collins, Austin Collins, Grace Miller, Noah Miller, Bryce Watson, Colton Watson, Braelynn Ray, Landri Simmons, Paislee Peacock, Ava Peacock, Neveah Edwards, Novah Edwards and Acesyn Edwards.

Funeral arrangements by Swain Funeral Home, Baxley.

RHODA STOKES JACKSON

 Rhoda Linda Stokes Jackson, 71, of Hilliard, passed away Saturday, March 12, 2022. She was born December 12, 1950 in Folkston, Georgia to the late Herbert A. Stokes, Sr. and Irene May Stokes. She attended Buford Grove Baptist Church in Hilliard. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her son Chris Murphy; and a sister Nancy Stokes.

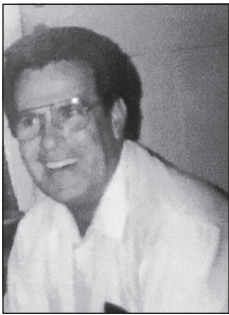
She is survived by two brothers Lewis (Loretta) Stokes and Herbert A. (Barbara) Stokes, Jr.; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held March 16 at Mill Creek Cemetery with Rev. Mike Pruitt officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.


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WILLIAM 'BILL' HADDEN
March 16, 1942 – November 18, 2018

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Your loving wife,
Deanna



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WITH ALL MY LOVE,
MAMA



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JERRY GLEN LEWIS

Jerry Glen Lewis, 64, of Hilliard, passed away on March 4, 2022. He was born in Dillon, South Carolina on January 19, 1958, to Gerald "Jerry" Lewis and Romelia "Mel" Gallegos Lewis. Glen retired from Jacksonville Aviation Authority. He enjoyed fishing and golfing but most of all loved spending time with his family. Glen is preceded in death by his father, Jerry Lewis; and son-in-law Rusty Tyler.

Glen is survived by his partner in life, Cathy Vanzant; daughter Leslie Tyler; mother Romelia "Mel" Lewis; sister Tracy Lewis; grandchildren Haven Kersey (Abigail), Gabriel Tyler, Abigail Tyler and Hardyn Lewis; stepson JC Vann; sister-in-law Janice (Peter) Corbin; brothers-in-law Larry (Sue) Vanzant and Henry Vanzant.

A celebration of Glen's life will be held Saturday, March 26 at 11 a.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church with Bro. Doyle Harper officiating.

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

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

AUBRA 'FIREMAN FRED' PARKER

Aubra Fred "Freddy" Parker, 77, of Yulee, passed away Friday, March 11, 2022. He was born in Jacksonville, the son of the late Aubra Fred and Beatrice Roberts Parker. He was raised in Yulee and spent his entire life there. He served honorably in the US Army in Vietnam. He worked in construction and loved building houses.

In addition to construction work, Freddy served for over 27 years as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Yulee Fire Department. He will always be remembered for his dedicated service and for how much he loved being a firefighter. He collected old cars and firetrucks but may be best known for his love of his dogs, Dalmatians. At one time he owned several of the iconic dogs and he loved them as though they were family. Freddy never married. He leaves to

mourn, several close and long-time friends.

Visitation was held prior to the graveside service held Tuesday, March 15 at Hughes Cemetery with Chaplain Jackie Hayes officiating. Freddy was laid to rest beside his mother.

Arrangements by Oxley Heard Funeral Home, Fernandina Beach.

STEVEN DANIEL ROGERS

Steven Daniel Rogers, 76, of Middleburg, joined our Heavenly Father on Saturday, March 12, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. Steve was born on October 31, 1945 in Rome, Georgia to the late Mr. Robert "Cottonbud" and Doris (McKinney) Rogers. He served 22 years in the United States Navy, retiring as Chief Petty Officer in 1985. More than anything, Steve was devoted to his wife, family and country. He will be missed beyond measure. Thank you for your service, Chief. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Linda "Sissy" Rogers; his "other chick" Azalia Padgett; children Michelle "Mickey" (Tracy) Jones, Sherry (Mike) Weiscopef and William "Buck" (Lacey) Rogers; grandchildren Kasey Jones, Ashley (Shane) Abbott, Michael (Kylie) Weiscopef, Jr., Myranda Anderson, Danielle (Evan) Barrett, Mykenzie Francis, Sydney Weiscopef, Keelyn Rogers and Teighan Rogers; great-grandchildren Madilyn, Marlee, Maelyn, McGraw, Carter and Aria; brothers Wayne (Susan) Rogers and Robert (Jackie) Rogers; sisters Selena (Morgan) Steele and Sala Rogers; as well as numerous extended family members.

A memorial service was held Thursday, March 17 at the Jacksonville National Cemetery with full military honors to be rendered.

Forbes Funeral Home were honored to assist the family with arrangements, (904) 259-4600.

OBITUARIES

DAN EUGENE STALLINGS

Dan Eugene "Doc" Stallings, 83, of Yulee, went home to be with our Heavenly Father Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Doc was born on March 9, 1938, to the late John Henry and Emma Thornton Stallings in Surrency, Georgia. He was raised in Baxley, GA. Doc moved to Yulee in 1956 to work at Terminal Paper Bag Company and worked there until he retired in 1997. It was at Terminal Bag that he met his wife of 50 years, Joyce Smith. They married on February 8, 1957, in Kingsland and had four children.

Doc was an avid hunter, fisherman, sports fan and most of all a farmer. He loved planting vegetables and sharing them with family and friends. He enjoyed playing softball, bluegrass music, Atlanta Braves, Georgia Bulldogs and playing the slots in Biloxi, Mississippi and Cherokee, North Carolina.

He is predeceased by his wife Joyce (2007); and son Roger (1967).

Survivors include his daughters, Maxine (Bill) Ley, Theresa Stallings and Angie (Ray) Lee of Yulee; grandchildren, April (Adam) Stavelly, Adam Ley, Rebecca (Michael) Wright and Rachel (Hunter) Totzke; six great-grandchildren and baby girl Keelynn Wright due in July; siblings Shirley Ely, Curtis "Bubba" (Linda) Stallings and Harry "Billy" (Vivian) Stallings; brother-in-law Hubert (Nan) Smith; and numerous extended family and his beloved cows.

Pallbearers were Adam Ley, Adam Stavelly, Hunter Totzke, Michael Wright, Mike Crider and Donald Burch. Honorary pallbearers are Bill Ley, Ray Lee, Hubert Smith, James Crider, JW Williams and

Aaron Rawls.

The family received friends March 13 at Oxley-Heard Funeral Home. The funeral service was held March 14, also in the chapel, with his nephew, Rev. Curtis Crider officiating. He was laid to rest at Hughes' Cemetery in Yulee.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Kidney Fund or the American Heart Association.

Please share your condolences at www.oxleyheard.com.

LONNIE ELLISON TAYLOR

Lonnie Ellison Taylor, 81, went home to be with the Lord February 27, 2022. He was born in Folkston, Georgia on December 18, 1940 to the late Nelson Ellison Taylor and Margaret Deane Geiger Taylor.

Lonnie proudly served his country in the in the United States Air Force as a plumber. Several years after his honorable discharge from the Air Force, Lonnie pursued a career as a steel worker for A K Steel Corporation. Lonnie enjoyed fishing, traveling with his late wife Juanita Taylor, in their travel trailer, watching black and white westerns, and listening to mountain music. He is preceded in death by his parents; and wife.

Lonnie leaves behind his children, Zackary Taylor, Susan Smith, Donna (Dale) Crosby and Wade Cox; sister Susan Sapp; two grandchildren; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Lonnie's life was held Saturday, March 12 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Tommy Walker officiating.

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

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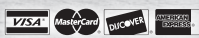
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HATS OFF TO COACH JOHN PATE

Jessie L. Pickett

Great coaches are positive, enthusiastic, supportive, trusting, focused, goal-oriented, knowledgeable, observant, patient and a clear communicator. Great leaders have a vision, are an inspiration and introduce strategic critical thinking, responsibility, accountability and dependability.

From the view of the majority of his players and parents, Coach John Pate has displayed the epitome of these characteristics. He has had quite a career. After serving his country as a US Army Infantry Officer, he began his football coaching career in 1984. He was a part of five national championship staffs while serving as an assistant at Georgia Southern University. He served as the head football coach at Union College, Lees-McRae College, and Hamline University and more, most recently head coach at Fernandina Beach High School and Hilliard Middle-Senior High School.

Coach Pate stepped into Hilliard's suffering program in 2018 with 17 rostered varsity players. Since then, he has turned the program around completely. This past season, a three-

team program, varsity, junior varsity and middle school boasted 90 players and the best program in Nassau County. For the past two seasons, the Flashes have gone undefeated in the regular season and made it to the second round of state playoffs. The success of the varsity program hasn't gone unnoticed by neighboring schools and is even having trouble making a schedule due to their success. For the past two seasons, Pate was named the District 5 Class 1A Coach of the Year. There is no question as to the strides that this program has made since Pate came on board.

It's no secret that Pate demands the absolute best of his players and expects 100% accountability. He has created a football culture in Hilliard with a work ethic that is sorely lacking in today's society. The players are expected to be at every practice and to be there on time; to be in uniform and ready to work. When they're not practicing, they're in the weight room. He's usually the first member of the faculty to be at the school every morning and one of the last to leave during football season. He sets the example. When the players arrive, he's there, when they leave, he commends



their effort and asks about their grades. A coach's effort is often matched by his players and it has become noticeably so in Hilliard. He's taught our young men a work ethic and accountability that, as a parent, I'm so thankful for.

I've worked hand-in-hand with Coach Pate for the past two football seasons as a parent and member of the Pride of Hilliard Football Club (booster club). I have to commend him on the amount of respect he has gained from his players. He's tough, serious and uses tough love to get the job done. As a photographer, I've been on the sidelines and witnessed him pour determination

into our young men like fertilizer. He has a great coaching staff behind him and they are all very goal-oriented. They set the bar and challenge the players to reach it every day. He respects his players and with that, he makes them dig deep to do things they never knew they could. It's been said that, "The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things". In my eyes, no other words describe Coach John Pate better. He's given our young men inspiration when needed, chewed them out on the sidelines when needed, listened to them when needed and instilled in them a love for the game of football. Thank you will never be enough from your players or from your Hilliard parents. Thank you for being tough on them, loving them, mentoring and maturing them into productive young men who are sure to do great things on and off the field.

We look forward to seeing what Coach Waylon Cox brings to the team, but there's no doubt, your 'encouragement' will be missed on Flashes Field.

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