



"IT WAS NOW ABOUT NOON, AND DARKNESS CAME OVER THE WHOLE LAND UNTIL THREE IN THE AFTERNOON, FOR THE SUN STOPPED SHINING. AND THE CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO. JESUS CALLED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, "FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE BREATHED HIS LAST." - LUKE 23:44-46

NCSO and NCSD Launch "Laced and Lethal" Campaign

Town of Callahan Approves Tractor Supply Site Plan



Alicia Tarancon, Public Affairs Officer

You may have noticed the new "Laced and Lethal" banners posted outside our local schools throughout Nassau County. That's because the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and Nassau County School District are joining forces to take aim at the deadly fentanyl crisis impacting the community. Sheriff Bill Leeper and Superintendent Dr. Kathy Burns announced the "Laced and Lethal" campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl and crack down on its distribution.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin and up to 100 times more potent than morphine. Even the smallest amount, mixed into other drugs can be fatal. Right now, this drug is driving record overdose deaths locally and nationwide. "Fentanyl is a poison plaguing our streets," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "With a dose as small as a few grains of salt able to kill, our community is facing a frightening epidemic. The

"Laced and Lethal" campaign is our united front to fight back."

Sheriff Leeper said that the primary mission of the campaign is to educate and create awareness, especially among students and young adults who are frequently targeted by these dangerous drug dealers who market the drug as prescription pills and other forms of drugs.

"Our children are the biggest victims when fentanyl is allowed to spread unchecked," said Superintendent Dr. Kathy Burns. "By combining law enforcement's resources with our ability to directly educate students and families, we have a powerful strategy to attack both the supply and demand fueling this crisis."

Our deputies and school resource officers will remain vigilant and attempt to cut off the fentanyl supply chain to our students. By working together, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and Nassau County School District can help prevent more tragic and unnecessary loss of life.

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of March. Council President Ken Bass asked for persons wishing to address the council and three names were presented: Paul Schwend, Kim Mott and Sandra Mott. "I just want to say I am a citizen in Callahan and have been most of my life and also a business owner. I currently serve on the city Zoning Board and am speaking on behalf of Tractor Supply," said Schwend. "There are always going to be future businesses searching in Callahan. Everyone has to go by the zoning restrictions and requirements. More business services are needed."

"My thoughts are, we (Callahan) are so congested right now. I have family members going through cancer and they have to travel to Jacksonville. Why don't we get those businesses?" said Kim Mott, owner of Callahan Feed & Western Wear. "It's all over Facebook that 'the people' want a Publix here. Traffic is another problem. I'm here fighting for my 13 employees' jobs."

"I'm opposed to Tractor Supply coming to Callahan, as my daughter owns Callahan Feed & Western Wear. This will affect small businesses like us," said Sandra Mott.

The first order of business was the First Reading and Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024-002, which concerned the Voluntary Annexation of 0.05 acres on Old Dixie Highway. The council approved the ordinance on First Reading.

The next agenda item concerned a Public Hearing for the Site Plan Review of Tractor Supply. All the plans have



already been approved through the Planning & Zoning Board. The property is located north of Callahan beside The Journey and across from Cedar River Seafood. The property consists of 23.72 acres and the proposed building will be 21,930sf. The council voted unanimous 4-0 (Councilwoman Ashton Bishop Vargas was absent) to approve the Tractor Supply site plan.

The following agenda item was the Final Reading on Ordinance 2024-01 which concerned a Land Use Change amending a parcel to Residential Density. The council approved the ordinance.

The final agenda item concerned an expense report from the West Nassau Historical Society. "I'm here to provide the expense report to the council concerning the money the town donated to the Historical Society," said John Hendricks, WNHS Board Member. "In November 2022, the WNHS received a grant from the Town of Callahan in the amount of \$39,200. With that money we replaced our 35-year-old AC/Heating units in January 2023 for a cost of \$12,350. In September 2023, we replaced 4 windows for \$10,400; and in February 2024, replaced the 5th window and 2 bad sills for \$342. In February 2024, we had a Monitored Fire Alarm System installed for \$14,781; and

See 'Town of Callahan' on page 3

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Dawn West Publisher
 Roger West Owner/Reporter
 Jessie Pickett Graphic Designer

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Letters to the Editor

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

Unauthorized Surveillance

Dear Editor,

Recently, I noticed several new black poles with a solar panel and small camera going up around the county. After doing some research, I discovered that these cameras (made by Flock Safety) are collecting license plate data on every vehicle that passes by them. This system, known as Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to capture not only license plate data, but also vehicle descriptions. While this is a useful tool for law enforcement to utilize in spotting stolen vehicles, Amber alerts, and so on, the problem with this system is it independently collects and then permanently stores the data to build a pattern of life database on everything it collects. Flock's own statements indicate that they want to have these cameras across the country to build a complete database of information on nearly everyone.

Additionally, this system is not only for law enforcement, but anyone who purchases this system. This is a direct violation of the 4th Amendment to the US Constitution in that We the People have the right to unreasonable invasion of our privacy.

As I continue to see more and more of these cameras going up in mostly rural areas, it spikes my senses that this is further unauthorized surveillance of the American people. I contacted several law enforcement agencies to see if they were the ones utilizing the system, but no one will definitively give me an answer. This begs the question, who is using or hacking this system? The more research I have done, many towns did not know of the full scope of these cameras, and many city and town commissioners have required they be taken down.

So here are my questions, does the Nassau County Board of Commissioners have knowledge of the use of these cameras within the county? If not, what actions will they take to protect our freedoms? If so, what restrictions on their use have they put in place to still protect our freedoms?

Freedom must be constantly guarded. President Ronald Regan knew this when he stated, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

We the People need to speak and step up.

John Scott

Praying for We the People

Dear Editor,

Please understand, God has put Trump on this earth for a reason, all of us. Trump is not God. Trump is a true warrior for God. Trump is trying to lead and direct us thru the examples he provides, what is required for us to lead this country. Trump is showing you thru his examples of his life here on earth, today, there are NO laws for "we the people." There is a two-tier system: you're with the corrupt and evil or the good and thankful, the followers of Jesus.

"We the People" must think and understand that there is only a UNIPARTY. There are very few "good government officials," very few, and they are not heard. Government starts locally in our town ships. The "government" in the last 6 decades has rapidly pushed their agenda onto "We the People," all of us. The US government (and the shadows behind the govt.), has placed their chosen in political seats to run the USA into the ground. Many years ago, it was an honor to be chosen by the people in an election. The politicians were held accountable for their actions. "We the People" have been brainwashed!

Understand, the Biden Administration is placing unlawful acts on our God given nation. There is nothing good for "We the People." This administration cares nothing about caring, fairness or truth. This administration is moving forward with their illegal agenda as fast as they can because they know that all persons, "We the People" have woken up! They know Trump will win by a landslide in November. This administration wants this chaos on "We the People." Taxpayers "wake up," many have! We all have been given our name thru our parents. Just think of the name "TRUMP." What a recognition! Trump continually says: "Never give up!" and "The best is yet to come!" God has had many plans for us, the USA, for a very long time. God is putting us (USA) on our knees. We are bending our knees, and I pray that, "We the People," pray to the "Father, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit" for discernment.

In closing, I have been taught thru my Hubby, the following scriptures: Matthew 22:37-40, "Jesus said, ...Thou shalt love the Lord the God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." "We the People" I pray each and every one, are on our knees!

Janice V. Corbin for "We the People"

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installed conduit from the Depot to the Annex for \$950. The total remaining from the grant is \$377, which will be put to the monthly monitoring fee of the Alarm System. In September 2023, the WNHS asked for \$1,850 of the town's assistance for expenses occurred for the Callahan Christmas Parade. With those funds we used \$600 on liability insurance; \$880 on trophies; and \$450 on portable toilets and wash station. We appreciate the donations and appreciate the Town of Callahan for always being supportive to our (WNHS) needs. Also, we had a record of 88 vendors at the Craft Show following the parade."

Hendricks also provided photos of all of the upgrades and replacements made to the Depot at the West Nassau Historical building.

"The Historical Society is planning to apply for one of the hosting slots for the Florida Humanities/Smithsonian exhibits for 2025," continued Hendricks. "We are requesting a letter of support from the Town of Callahan

Continued from page 1

to place in the initial application. Thank you!"

"We appreciate all you do for Callahan and all the history you have provided about our town," said Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming. "I also thank you for providing your expense report broken down and supplied to us."

In closing comments, Councilman David Mellecker advised the council, "I am resigning my position on the council effective tonight due to medical issues. I've enjoyed my work here and wish I could stay. It's been a great experience."

Councilman Mellecker's seat is up for election in November. Per the Town Charter, the seat will be advertised for any Callahan (city limits) persons to apply for. Once applications are received the Town Council will vote on the person to fill the seat until the November election.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I am sure many of you have read this on social media, as I have. However, when I read it again today, it really made me stop and think. Many believe that our best days are in front of us, as with all the advanced technology that seems to make our lives better. I strongly suggest that our best days are behind us! Children now-a-days will never know what real life is all about. They will not know the pure joy of entertaining ourselves with whatever we could find, be it a stick for an army rifle as we played combat or cops and robbers. There were so many games we came up with to fill our time. Technology, liberalism and political correctness has ruined imagination and discovery of us all.

"Never once did I question my parent's income, it was never a discussion. We didn't eat a lot of fast food because it was considered a treat, not a food group. We drank Kool-Aid made from water that came from our kitchen sink with real sugar. And juice from a cardboard canister in the frozen section. We ate fried egg sandwiches, fried bologna sandwiches, some even ate tuna (which was in a can, not a pouch), PB&J & grilled cheese sandwiches, hot dogs (straight out of the fridge), but mostly homemade meals consisting of meat, potatoes and vegetables and pot roast or fried chicken on Sundays after church. We grew up during a time when we mowed lawns, pulled weeds, babysat, helped neighbors with chores

to be able to earn our own money. We, by no means, were given everything we wanted. We went outside A LOT to play, ride bikes, run with friends, play hide and seek, or went swimming. We rarely just sat inside. We drank tap water from the water hose outside, bottled water was unheard of.

PAY ATTENTION HERE Y'ALL! You **LEARNED** from your parents instead of disrespecting them and treating them as if they knew absolutely nothing. What they said was **LAW**, and you did not question it, and you had better know it! We watched what we said around our elders because we knew if we **DISRESPECTED ANY** grown-up, we would get our behinds whipped, it wasn't called abuse, it was called discipline! We held doors, carried groceries, and gave up our seat for an older person without being asked. You didn't hear curse words on the radio in songs (as almost every other word) or TV, and if you cursed and got caught, you had a bar of soap stuck in your mouth. "Please, thank you, yes ma'am, no ma'am, yes sir, and no sir" were part of our daily vocabulary! I will never forget where I came from and only wish children nowadays had half the chance at the fun and respect for real life we grew up with! And we were never bored! If we said we were, our parents found a chore to free us from our boredom real quick like." Happily copied.

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

The Arc Celebrates Founder's Day

Megan Feldman

The Arc Nassau celebrated Founder's Day Friday, March 1, 2024. This celebration honored those individuals who helped make The Arc Nassau what it is today! We were so grateful to see so many community members show their support. A special thanks goes out to WestRock's Eric Schmidt for attending and their donation. We would also like to extend our thanks to the District Aid to Representative Black, George Spicer.

Shown (l to r) are: George Spicer, Jennifer Paulk and Eric Schmidt.



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Come As You Are?

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



We live in a day where we have created this idea that God must accept whatever we bring to Him. That He "Gets Us." This has been spurred by a misappropriated phrase, "come as you are." Much like the phrase "separation of church and state" has become a new age idea that the church should stay out of the state's business, when in fact, it was originally intended to mean that the state should stay out of the church's business.

In Genesis 4, we have an age-old story of Cain and Abel. Both brought an offering unto God and the Scripture states that God respected one offering but not the other. Both men brought what they thought was the best they had to bring and yet God only respected one of the offerings. To be fair, God did receive both offerings. But the question begs...is God pleased with just whatever we think He should be satisfied with?

Abel's offering was the one God respected because it was the type of offering He was looking for from man. Cain's offering was not and his response to God was one of anger. God then responds to Cain's anger and makes this statement, "...if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." Cain's offering was not sinful...it was simply not his best. Cain's offering was mediocre and God's concern was that Cain's mediocrity would eventually lead to sin in his life.

There are two perspectives here for us in the church today. The first is for those that are saved and a member of the Body of Christ, we must always offer our very best. From what we say, where we go, who we spend time with, even what we wear or how we present our bodies. This is not only true for church, but in our everyday lives. This is the perspective in the story of Cain and Abel. They were followers of God and bringing offerings. We must bring what God can respect.

The second perspective is from the original intent of the phrase, "come as you are." If you find yourself without God in your life, unsaved, then rest assured that Christ is willing for you to come to Him for salvation...just as you are. The truth is, you have nothing to bring to God that He respects. He will receive you, but not because of what you have to give. He will receive you because of what He has given...his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13.

OREMC Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

April 5 Deadline for Next Round of Quarterly Grant Awards



The OREMC Foundation is once again accepting applications for its quarterly grant awards program. All applications must be received by Friday, April 5. Grant criteria, application and timelines are available on OREMC's website oremc.com/foundation.

The OREMC Foundation is a community development initiative of Okefenokee REMC supporting education, community health and economic development in the six Georgia and two Florida counties the co-op serves. Currently, OREMC unclaimed capital credits are the primary funding source. Qualified organizations

are invited to submit grant applications outlining their project plans and related funding requests. A nine-member Foundation Board of Trustees—one member representing each of OREMC's districts—will review applications and award grants accordingly.

Since its inception in August 2021, the OREMC Foundation has awarded over \$400,000 to 100+ organizations in OREMC's service area, including: food banks, music education and reading programs to historical preservation, public safety and meeting community health/safety needs. For more information about the OREMC Foundation please review the guidelines available at oremc.com/foundation. You can also email questions to foundation@oremc.com or call 800-262-5131, ext. 1103.

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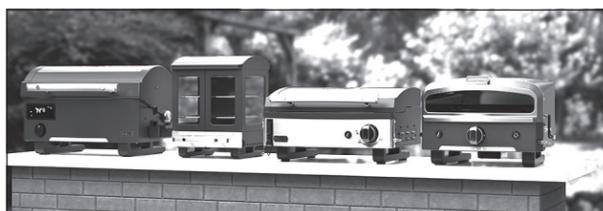


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Now, Can We Have a REAL State of the Union?

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

The country waited, with great anticipation, for a "State of the Union" address. But all we got was political campaign rhetoric, which changed absolutely nothing. "It's not my fault," to paraphrase his remarks, "it was my predecessor!" Further, after listening to it all, the only thing that was concrete in nature is the need to get more tax money so we can give away more money to those who have done nothing to deserve it.

After listening to a laundry list of complaints, with no proposed resolutions, he turned his wrath toward the justices of the Supreme Court. Remember, he has already violated the law by ignoring Court rulings that said he could not forgive college loans and now is trying to circumnavigate the court to violate states' rights when it comes to health care issues. To say nothing of deliberately ignoring the constitution and laws that govern immigration, this man's high crimes and misdemeanors are far greater than anyone who has held the office, and that includes Richard Nixon. If any one of us used the language he used concerning the Justices, the FBI would arrest us and put us in jail for "threatening" this branch of government. Internationally, the administration wants to establish a "Pier" on the GAZA Strip coast, so aid and supplies can be delivered 'securely'. After spending several minutes espousing what great friends and allies Israel is, why in the world would we establish a "Secure Pier" to deliver aid to the enemies of this "Great Ally?"

Just hours before this address, it came to light that the government had reached out to foreign lands to secretly transport over 300,000 "undocumented people," with no one's knowledge, into the interior. We certainly don't need a border when our own government just flies over it with illegals. I think I'll remember that, when returning

from a trip and someone wants to see my passport.

Then the icing on the cake; "Crime is down and we are now safer than when I took office." If so, then why does NYC have 40-50% fewer police officers with the National Guard now patrolling the subway system? Further study of other cities shows the same trends.

As it went down, all I saw was an angry old man that was putting all the blame on others, taking no responsibility for his own deficiencies or short-comings. It reminded me a lot of a conversation I had with my elderly father when trying to convince him to leave his assisted living accommodations in the north and move where he could be close to us, in Florida, or to my brother who lives in Texas. In that way, we would be able to get to him when he needed help or one of us needed to handle issues.

Very angrily, he said; "I've been taking care of myself since I was 16 years-old and I don't need any of your help now!" This was shortly after we picked him up at the airport, only to find he had soiled his clothing on the plane, because he could not make it to the rest room in time before landing. When confronted as to why he wanted to stay in the north his response was; "Because all my friends are there." I had to point out to him that all his friends were dead! It was less than two months after that when he passed away because he could not take care of himself and medical issues compromised his life.

Two comments, from the past, come to mind here. First, it was Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher who said; "The only problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money." And, so far as the loud angry rhetoric, it was Cato the Elder who voiced; "An angry man opens his mouth and closes his eyes."

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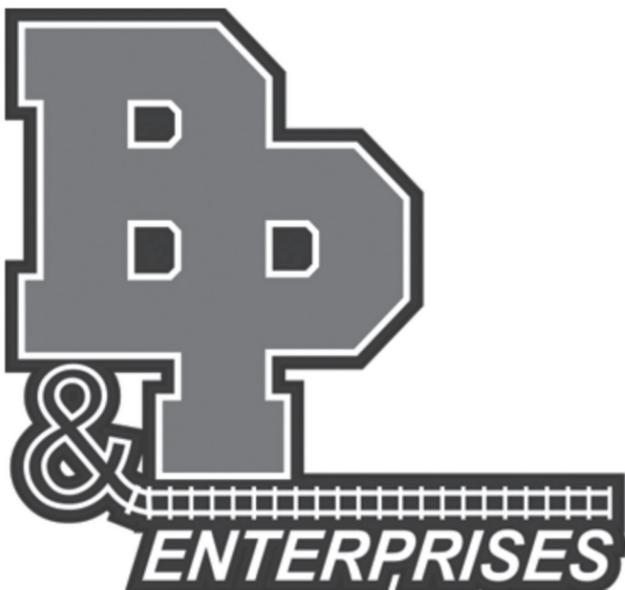
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New Beginnings and Milestones

Lavern Meeks Celebrates 93rd Birthday

Lavern Higginbotham Meeks, of Callahan, celebrated her 93rd 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 longtime member of the Callahan 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 with her son David.



She celebrated her special milestone in many ways, from having dinner with friends, to sharing a special dinner with her family! "I think I'm going to celebrate my birthday all year," said Lavern!

Peggy Wentworth Celebrates 90th Birthday



Peggy Wentworth, of Callahan, celebrated her 90th birthday March 20. Peggy was born March 20, 1934 in Saramac, New York. Peggy moved to Callahan in 1984, where she and her late husband managed the Tricia Motel. Peggy has two horses that she enjoys taking care of. She grew up with horses and still loves them to this day, even though she no longer rides. She is a member of Callahan First Baptist Church and enjoys her church family and friends.

She was treated to lunch at The Pig restaurant in Callahan with her friends from the Silver Sneakers group at Anytime Fitness. She also plans to enjoy a birthday dinner with her daughters, Karen and Janet, who both live in Callahan. Congratulations!

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Reed to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Eddie and Debbie Reed, of Hilliard, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary March 25. They were married March 25, 1974 in Folkston, Georgia. Eddie worked at Rayonier for many years before changing professions to work as a Brick Mason. For the last 20 plus years, he has owned and operated Reed's Processing Plant in Hilliard.

Debbie has always been a housewife, taking care of the children and running them around. Now she loves being a grandmother where she continues to care for her grands! She also loves spending time with her sister Sandy! She is a wonderful cook and always has something ready, should anyone be hungry.

Eddie and Debbie enjoy going to movies once in a while, but love spending time with their family. They are very selfless as they care for others before themselves. They will celebrate their special milestone with a family dinner held in their honor!



They have four children: Jason and Tonya, Jeremy and Dana, Brittany and Bo and Jared. They also have eleven grandchildren: Jacquelyn, Jillian, Madison, Lauren, Reed, Mabrie, Gannon, Taylor, Clay, Hadley and Madison; and one great-grandson, Braxton.



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Leadership Nassau Class 23 Experiences West of 1-95 Day



Alexandra Wilmer

Leadership Nassau, created by the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, is a nine-month program that cultivates leadership skills, educates participants on the area's most critical issues, and prepares participants with the information, tools, and skills needed to help address these challenges and make an impactful difference in our community.

Every month, Leadership Nassau students are fully immersed in a different program day, which includes behind-the-scenes tours of local facilities and presentations from influential speakers. Every program day is different and highlights various aspects of our community including Regional Issues Day, Government & Public Policy Day, and Education, Technology & Infrastructure Day, just to name a few.



On Tuesday, March 12, Leadership Nassau Class 23 experienced West of I-95 Day; the objective of this day is to provide participants with an overview of western Nassau County and help them gain an understanding of our rural communities. The day kicked off with presentations from representatives with Rayonier and

Wildlight. From there, the class traveled to Hilliard where they got an up close and personal tour of Traders Hill Farm and learned about their innovative aquaponics facilities. After enjoying a delicious lunch courtesy of R & R Wings, the class then traveled to the Federal Aviation Administration, the UF County Extension Office, and the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds. Class 23 ended the day at the West Nassau Historical Society in Callahan with an informative tour about the vibrant history of the west side of the county.

We would like to thank REMI Realty and Traders Hill Farm for sponsoring



West of I-95 Day; without their support, this program day would not be possible, and we are grateful for their partnership.

Hilliard High School Prom King & Prom Queen
Brandyn Seldomridge & Hallie Driggers



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TOWN OF HILLIARD ANNUAL CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, MARCH 23

- 8:30 a.m. - Refreshments & Sign Ups
- 9 a.m. - Clean-Up Begins
- 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - OneBlood Bloodmobile Onsite
- 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - FREE Document Shredding
- 11 a.m. - Cookout at Town Hall for Volunteers
- 12 p.m. - Clean-Up Ends



Worried about Identity Theft? KEEP IT PRIVATE!

The Town of Hilliard will be providing **FREE SHREDDING** from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

What to Shred: personal papers, old bills, statements, receipts, envelopes, letters, folders, etc. (No need to remove paper clips, rubber bands, staples or folders)

What NOT to Shred: cardboard, CDs, DVDs, plastics, binders, electronics, x-rays, etc. (please, no businesses)

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The Town of Callahan is **HIRING A FULL TIME FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST**. This person must be able to multitask, greet customers, answer phones & transfer calls, send faxes, take payments, and perform clerical tasks. This position pays \$13.00 per hour. If interested, please fill out an application and provide a copy of your resume either by walk-in located at 542300 US HWY 1 Callahan, FL. 32011 or email to clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov. 32824

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FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., 54198 Hurst Rd., off Ratliff Road, Callahan. Hunting & fishing equipment, guns, clothes, furniture & much more! 32824

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE! Saturday, 8 a.m. until? 44249 Pinebreeze Circle, Callahan. Good variety of items!

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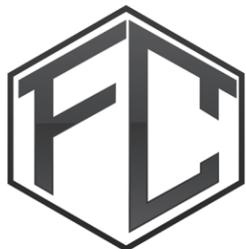
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POLICE REPORTS

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.

Tuesday, March 12

Mark Robin Thompson, 60, of Callahan: Failure of Owner/Operator to Maintain Required Insurance; Driving While License Suspended/Revoked Equivalent Status 3rd Subsequent Violation; Tag Not Assigned Vehicle

Saturday, March 16

Daryl Lee Smith, 38, of Hilliard: Violation of Protection Order

County Earns Regional Award in Affordable Housing

At the Northeast Florida Regional Council's Elected Officials Luncheon, Nassau County was presented with a Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing from the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) for the creation of its new Tiny Home Development Program.

The Board of County Commissioners recognizes that affordable housing is a challenge. As such, they have been seeking options to create workforce housing which is defined as "housing affordable to households earning between 60 and 120 percent of area median income." Workforce housing targets middle-income workers which include professions such as police officers, teachers, firefighters, hospitality workers, health care workers, retail workers, and public sector employees. The income of many of the individuals in these professions exceeds the amount to be considered eligible to qualify for government assisted affordable housing; however, their incomes are not high enough to purchase a home at today's market rates.

In July 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and a revision to the Land Development Code creating the Tiny Home Development Program which would allow existing mobile home parks, travel trailer

parks, and RV parks to be redeveloped as affordable communities. The amendments will also create an incentive for developers to redevelop blighted areas while continuing to provide for long-term affordability which will help the County bridge the gap for those who need diversified housing.

The Tiny Home Development Program will provide for 800sf tiny homes on a permanent foundation constructed with long-lasting materials that maintain the distinct character and harmony of the surrounding community. The development will be designed in a cluster format with tiny homes centered around a shared/communal outdoor living area with public spaces such as lawns, gardens, patios, plazas, and areas for "free play." In addition to the shared/communal outdoor living areas, each tiny home community will have a centrally located principal shared/communal outdoor living area to serve the broader needs of the residents within the development. Each tiny home will have a minimum of one parking space and a covered outdoor living area in the form of a porch or patio.

For additional information about the County's Tiny Home Development Program, please contact the Planning Department at (904) 530-6320 or email planning@nassaucountyfl.com.

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<p>USDA Whole T-BONES \$5⁹⁵ lb. U.S.D.A. INSPECTED BEEF Cut the way you like! Expires 3-26-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON Sliced the way you like it! \$4⁹⁹ lb. WHOLE OR HALF Expires 3-26-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>
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ERIK FLOY ANDERSON



Erik Floy Anderson, 25, of Callahan, formally of Wake Forrest, North Carolina, tragically passed away March 13, 2024. He was born August 21, 1998, in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Erik had an infectious smile and a charismatic personality that drew everyone he met to love him. He loved Jesus and would tell you about Him at any given time. Erik was an outstanding father to his son, Xander, a loving fiancé, an amazing son, friend and mentor to many. He was someone you could always count on to make you laugh. Erik had many interests such as music, football, soccer, basketball and going to the springs. He enjoyed any and all things adventurous. Erik was employed through Altec of Jacksonville where he was a service technician. He loved his job and excelled at it, and recently received the Top Wrench award. Erik is loved immensely and will be forever missed. "Love yours" He is preceded in death by his father Brian Anderson; and brother Christopher Anderson.

Erik leaves behind his mother Andrea Pridgen; father Patrick Pridgen; loving fiancé Lexxie Jones; son Xander Anderson; brother Daniel (Tori) Anderson; grandparents Mike and Liana Anderson, Gail Hankins, Floyd and Sue Pridgen; nephews Luke Anderson and Bennett Anderson; niece Ashlyn Anderson; bonus family Tony Taylor, Tasha Taylor, Braydon Taylor, Bryson Taylor; and many extended family members and countless friends.

The family will receive friends at noon Saturday, March 23, prior to the celebration of life service at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Gabe Sylvia officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made for Erik's son, Xander at <https://www.spotfund.com/story/1469c0d6-b059-4d99-90da-82c1708b70b6>.

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

OBITUARIES

PATRICIA A. HATCHER

Patricia A. Hatcher, 80, of Callahan, passed away March 14, 2024. She was born October 29, 1943, in Sandersville, Georgia to the late Thelmae Columbus Morris and Mattie Sammons Morris. Patricia was a loving mother and grandmother who will be missed dearly. She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband Raymond Powell Hatcher.

Patricia leaves behind her son Michael Hatcher; grandchildren Jacob Hatcher, Noah Hatcher, Arianna Guevara, Sara Mae Guintivano and Haley Hicks Glisson; and niece Lisa Morris.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, March 21 at 1:30 p.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

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

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

EDWARD HAROLD KELLY



Edward 'Harold' Kelly, 81, of Callahan, entered the presence of Jesus March 18, 2024. He was born November 12, 1942 in High Springs, Florida, to the late Alonzie Kelly and Evelyn Corrie O'Steen. He married the love of his life, Barbara Jackson, and they would have celebrated 60 years of marriage in May.

He graduated from Technical High School and Lake City Community College, attended Florida Community College of Jacksonville, and received his Law Enforcement Certification. Harold was a Bailiff in the Duval County Traffic Court; a Nassau County Reserve Deputy; and a Police Officer with the Jacksonville

Aviation Authority, with 22 years of service. In 2017, he received Volunteer of the Year with NCSO.

Harold had many great qualities. He loved his family dearly, he was passionate about his Lord, and was a dedicated, hard-working employee. He loved being a police officer, always willing to go the extra mile to help someone. He was kind, compassionate and had a caring heart. He would always have a sincere, kind word to say, and would continually tell people 'God Bless You.' He enjoyed fishing and loved playing and coaching softball. He played men's church league softball and he coached his daughter's softball teams for many years. He also loved the Florida State Seminoles, especially during the Bobby Bowden era, and would always watch a football game any chance he could. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his sister Dot McKenzie; and brothers Donald and John.

Harold is survived by his wife Barbara; daughters Donna (Mark) Sizemore and Karen (Raymond) Pace; two grandchildren Jessica Sizemore and Raymond Pace, Jr.; siblings Bryan, Howard (Patti), Evone Hutchinson, Alton (Denise), Lora (Johnny) Brewer and Ronnie (Rose); brothers-in-law Steve (Wendy) Jackson and Johnnie Jackson; sisters-in-law Bunny Kelly, Carol Kelly, Mary Rowell and Sandy Jones; and a host of extended family members and numerous friends.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 21 at Callahan First Baptist Church prior to the celebration of life service at 11 a.m., with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

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

GERALD ELLIS MILLIGAN, JR.



Gerald Ellis "Gembo" Milligan, Jr., 71, of Callahan, passed away on March 13, 2024 after a brief illness.

Gembo was a native of Jacksonville, growing up in the Hyde Park community and a proud graduate of Forrest High School. Professionally he was a Drywall Applicator by trade and had the reputation of being one of the best at his craft in the Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia area. For the last 15 years, Gembo made Callahan his home and was lovingly known by the community as "Uncle Si." Gembo was an avid fisher, Miami Dolphins fan, and loved the outdoors. He preferred being on the water or outside by a warm fire with a cold beverage to anything, except spending time with his "grandbabies" planting gardens or just talking with them.

He was preceded in death by his wife Wanda D. Milligan; son Jeremiah Milligan; and parents Gerald Ellis Milligan, Sr. and Carolyn "Bobbie" Glenn Milligan.

Gembo leaves behind his daughters Tabatha Milligan of Tuscaloosa, Holley Milligan of Jacksonville and Kayleigh Milligan of Callahan; son Eric Milligan of Waycross; eight grandchildren Keye, Brenna, Amy, Jada, Justin, Riley, Spencer and Melissa (Sissy); three great-grandchildren; a brother Cary Milligan of Callahan; sisters Brenda Silcox of Hilliard and Geraldine (Gerry) Milligan of Jacksonville; and many extended family members and close friends.

A graveside service was held Tuesday March 19 at Riverside Memorial Park in Jacksonville. In honor of Gembo, guests may wear Miami Dolphins attire or your favorite fishing hat. Shoes are optional and anyone who knew Gembo will appreciate that!

Condolences may be expressed at: www.corey-kerlin.com.

Arrangements by Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, Jacksonville.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES ALFRED PAYNE



James Alfred Payne, 80, of Jacksonville, passed away Monday, March 11, 2024. He was born May 7, 1943 in Westville, Florida, to the late James Alton Payne and Nancy Goddin Payne. James retired from Swisher after over 50 years of service. He loved to fish and hunt. He was a member of North Jacksonville Baptist Church. He was also formerly a member of the Moose Lodge. In addition to his parents; he is preceded in death by a daughter Dana Payne Hughes.

He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Verdell Carroll Payne; four children Sharon Ivey, Ronald (Amy) Cobb, Randy (Kristi) Cobb and James Tracy (Amy) Payne; 10 grandchildren Samuel (Samantha) Ivey, Stephanie (Joshua) Rogers, Dustin Hughes, Lindsay Hughes, Brittany (Michael) Competiello, Joshua Cobb, Chandler Cobb, Kelsey Cobb, Noah Payne and Kaleen (Menia) Payne; two great-grandchildren Rylie Competiello and Harper Ivey; two sisters Diane Dolan and Lisa Ingram; two nephews Darin Sullivan and Michael (Lisa) Ingram; and a host of extended family and friends that loved and adored him.

A graveside service was held Saturday, March 16 at Mill Creek Cemetery with Bro. Paul Lucas officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

CHARLES E. SPURLOCK, SR.



Charles Edward "Red" Spurlock, Sr., 80, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away Thursday, March 14, 2024. He was born February 13, 1944 in Ware County, Georgia to the late Allen Dwayne Spurlock and Alliemae Martin Spurlock. In addition to his parents; he is preceded in death by his wife Laura Mae Reed Spurlock; son Chuck Spurlock; grandson Tony Geoghagan; and three siblings W.L. Spurlock, James Spurlock and Shirley Soloman.

He is survived by his three children Sandra (Darrell) Geoghagan, Charlotte (Paul) King and Kenny (Charity) Spurlock; seven grandchildren Amber (Keith) Sweat, Jennifer (Jason) Love and Jessica (Boy) Lindsay, Christy Geoghagan, Paul King, Jr., Rivers King and Alyssa Spurlock; 14 great-grandchildren; and four siblings George (Dale) Spurlock, Alphine (Jack) Clark, Tommy (Sandra) Spurlock and Annie (Larry) Strickland.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, March 19 at Camp Pinckney Baptist Church with Bro. Tim Hall officiating. Burial followed at Camp Pinckney Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

Pallbearers were Andrew Garvin, Wyatt Garvin, Keith Sweat, Gavin Spurlock, Jason Love and Darrell Geoghagan.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

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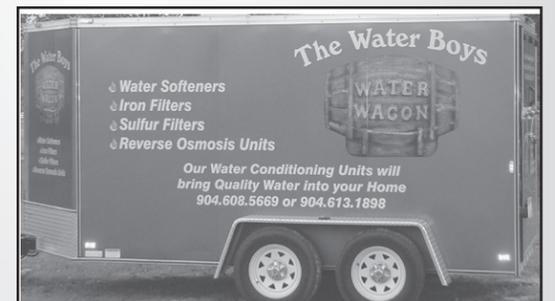
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National Honor Society Inductees

Deborah Ring

Sonshine Christian Academy's National Honor Society hosted their annual induction ceremony on February 26, 2024. The National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Members are selected by the chapter's faculty council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Three new members: Alayna Ashley, Bella Crews, and Cole Petree, were inducted. The Sonshine Christian Academy NHS Chapter is incredibly proud to include the new inductees in their upcoming service projects and initiatives! Congratulations!



Welcome New Assistant County Attorney

The Nassau County Attorney's Office is pleased to introduce its new Assistant County Attorney, Elizabeth Moore. Ms. Moore has been practicing law for 16 years, most recently working in commercial real estate where she advised clients



on transactional matters and appeared before governments and agencies across northeast Florida. Ms. Moore was also a partner in the Jacksonville offices of two global law firms, representing clients in environmental matters, contract negotiations, litigation and regulatory compliance issues. Ms. Moore graduated summa cum laude from University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Environmental

Studies. She received her Juris Doctor Degree with High Honors from George Washington University Law School, where she served on the Law Review. Ms. Moore has resided in Nassau County since 2007.

As Assistant County Attorney, Ms. Moore will perform a variety of duties including legal research and issuing opinions on legal matters of local government law for County departments, committees and boards, as assigned. She will also support the County Attorney by drafting legal documents, preparing proposed legislation, and prosecuting and defending civil and administrative cases on behalf of the County government.

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