

"BUT YOU, O LORD, ARE A SHIELD AROUND ME; YOU ARE MY GLORY, THE ONE WHO HOLDS MY HEAD HIGH." - PSALM 3:3

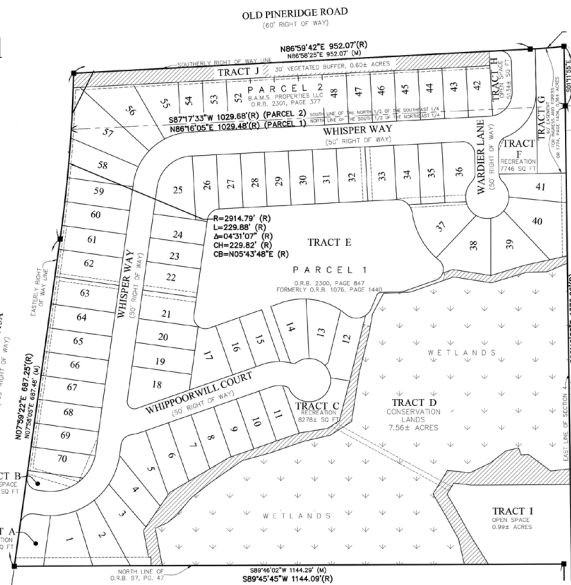
Hilliard Approves Final Plat for Whisper Ridge Subdivision

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their last regular meeting of March. The first order of business was the approval of the Final Plat for the Whisper Ridge Subdivision and acceptance of the Performance Bond for Completion of the Infrastructure Improvements for the subdivision. The town council approved the Preliminary Plat for Whisper Ridge on October 20, 2022. The subdivision will be located at the corner of Kings Ferry Road and Old Pineridge Road and will construct 70 homes on the 26 acres of property.

The next order of business was a presentation by Patrick Dangelo, representing the Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA). The FRWA is a member based organization with over a thousand members, most in small systems, leading in training and emergency response.

"I have recently been working with the Public Works department with the location of all the utilities in the town. During this time, we have been taking snapshots of the entire town system to help to reduce the down time when a problem arises," said Dangelo. "The staff has been great to work with and very helpful. Currently we have recorded 102 hydrants, over 100 valves, 237 manholes, 8 lift stations, plant assets and energy assessment. The initial draft is almost complete for your consideration. I recommend the council adopt this Asset Management



Program by resolution. All the work I am currently doing is paid in full by the D.E.P. To be considered for principal forgiveness/grant opportunities with DEPSRF, an Amp Plan must be adopted and implemented before completion of construction. Failure to do so can lead to grants being turned into loans."

Parks and Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg requested approval to begin searching for seasonal staff, at the same pay rate as last year, as summer approaching. The council approved the request.

In other business, the council approved to amend the current Legal Services Contract to increase the Principal Attorney hourly rate from \$150 to \$165; and Associate Attorneys hourly rate from \$115 to \$125.

The council approved the payment of \$12,000 to Mittaurer & Associates, Inc. for project: FDEP Oxford Street Force Main rerouting.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m.



2nd Annual Woods and Water Family Fun Day

Saturday, April 1 - Register Now!



The 2nd Annual Woods and Water Family Fun Day will be held next Saturday, April 1 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The event will be a fun-filled day with activities for children and parents alike. The event is hosted by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch at Camp Sorenson, 1023 Retreat Acres Road, located off of CR 121 in Hilliard.

The purpose of the event is to promote the importance of quality family time and introduce children (of all ages) and their families to some outdoor fun! Some of the featured activities will be fresh water fishing (fishing poles provided or bring your own), archery and various other outdoor games and activities. There will also be face painting

and hay rides. Admission is FREE for the event! There will also be FREE barbeque sandwiches or chicken for lunch.

Everyone who fills out a registration card or pre-registers is automatically entered to win door prizes and there are lots of them! There will be a FREE t-shirt for pre-registered children 16 and under. You can register your children and family by scanning the QR Code or register when you arrive!

The event is being sponsored by local businesses and churches. Sponsors are still needed for the event to make it bigger and better. This is a great chance to get out and have some fun with your family! For more information call Bob at (904) 845-7286.



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If you love someone struggling with drug or alcohol use, you may feel alone and unsure where to turn for help. That is where Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) can help. PAL weekly meetings provide a structured, evidence-based curriculum to give you the tools you need to encourage your loved one's recovery without enabling their addiction. Equally important is the opportunity to network with other parents and loved ones struggling with the same issues, for support and fellowship. The free and confidential meetings are held on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Baptist Association in Yulee; and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. Come and learn new ways to deal with your loved ones and gain a better understanding of addiction. For more information, call (904) 703-7847 or email at tashiad210@gmail.com. There is hope!

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St. Marys Riverkeeper Opposes Mining Operation on Trail Ridge



Emily Floore, Executive Director/
Riverkeeper

St. Marys Riverkeeper is a 501(c)3 private environmental advocacy organization formed in 2016 charged with protecting the St. Marys River. Riverkeeper represents the four counties (Camden and Charlton in Georgia and Nassau and Baker in Florida) and many communities sharing stewardship responsibilities for the St. Marys River. The St. Marys River is the focus of the organization's work to improve water quality in areas designated as swimmable and fishable; ensure the river thrives for future generations through resiliency projects and community partnerships; promote low-impact development in a fast-growing area; seek solutions to water quality issues; and advocate against industrial threats.

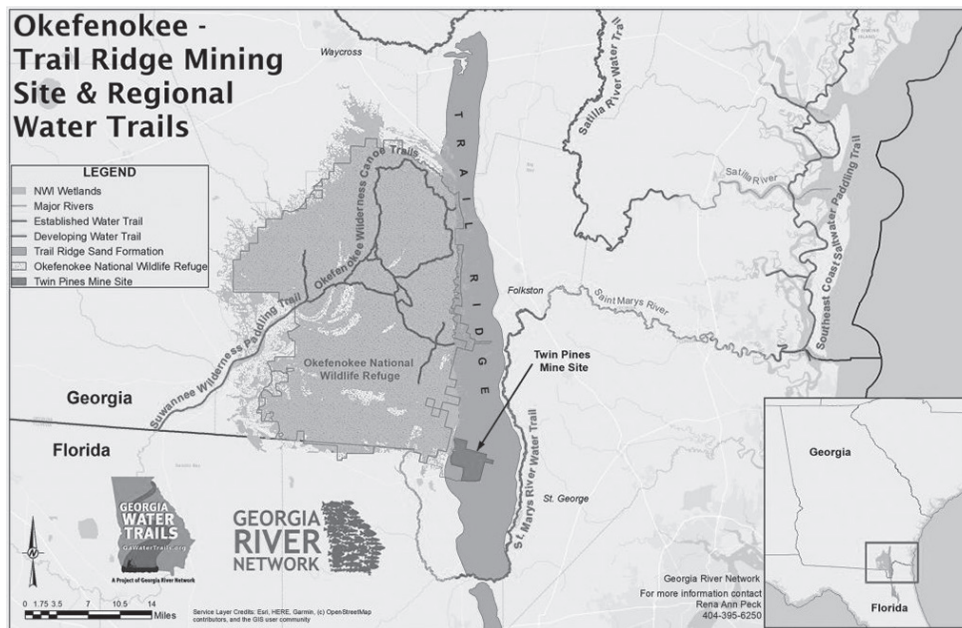
The St. Marys River forms the border between Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida. Arising from the Okefenokee Swamp, the river flows 130 miles to the Atlantic Ocean emptying at Cumberland Island National Seashore. Bookended by two national treasures,

our St. Marys River is pristine from Swamp to Sea, but a river is only as healthy as its headwaters and tributaries.

St. Marys Riverkeeper opposes the Mining Land Use Plan Permit submitted by Twin Pines Minerals, LLC (TPM) for Saunders Demonstration Mine in Charlton County, application number SAS-2018-00554-SP-HAR, on the edge of the Okefenokee Swamp and St. Marys River. The company has failed to present compelling evidence that its operation will not irrevocably harm the region's delicate ecosystem. The St. Marys River watershed is too important to risk for experimental and untested mining methods.

Riverkeeper's concerns include but are not limited to: water level monitoring, process water management, water withdrawal, and reclamation plan. To read all of Riverkeeper's concerns, see our Public Comment on our website.

TPM has a poor record for environmental stewardship in Georgia and Florida all initiating legal action against the company during the past six years. While processing tailings at two of the four Chemours titanium mines on Trail Ridge in north Florida, TPM spilled wastewater during Hurricane Irma. Because of that and other infractions, TPM is still under a Florida Consent Order. As a result of their prior experience, there is an expectation for a



Land Use Plan that provides an outline of handling environmental catastrophes such as spills, berm breaches, or other adverse effects. In Georgia, a Clean Water Act civil suit brought against Twin Pines-affiliated companies of Georgia Renewable Power, LLC and Greenfuels Energy LLC in 2019, resulted in a \$625,000 settlement for the plaintiffs. Toxins were being illegally discharged into the air and streams resulting in fish kills and compromising wetlands.

On November 22, 2022, the Secretary of the Interior wrote a letter urging the Georgia EPD to protect the Okefenokee

Swamp and stated, "The Department will exercise its own authorities to protect the swamp ecosystem and will continue to urge our State and Federal partners to take steps under their own authorities to do the same."

The U.S. EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service have also filed letters of opposition. The evidence and the number of organizations and people in opposition indicate Georgia EPD should reject all state applications from TPM and fulfill their mission to protect and restore Georgia's environment by taking the lead in ensuring clean air, water and land.

In the Kitchen...

- 1 lemon cake mix
- 8 oz. Cool Whip

Lemon Cookies

- 1 egg
- powdered sugar

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Here we go again... the Democrats will do anything and everything to ruin a man that is only guilty of loving America and believes in "America First." Is it just me, or do others sense that the entire world has gone to hell in a handbasket since President Trump was removed from the White House?

Please, someone offer me anything that has happened under the Biden regime that has had a positive effect on America. I would also love to hear about anything that Trump predicted, if Biden became President, that has not come to fruition. I don't care whether you like or hate Trump, he has been right about everything. Now a prejudice, liberal George Soros funded DA in New York is supposedly going to indict and arrest Donald Trump this week over the weakest of charges, which would normally be a misdemeanor. However, DA Bragg wants the charge to be raised to a felony. First things first, the DOJ looked into this same matter and refused to attempt an indictment due to its lack of prudence. Secondly, if there had been a crime committed, when they say it was, the statute of limitations has passed long ago.

Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard Law School professor, emeritus and noted libertarian, made a statement concerning the possible arrest as being a "targeted injustice" by Democrats. The charges are falsifying business records related to an alleged hush money payment to porn star, Stormy Daniels. The payment was not illegal and it did not violate campaign finance rules, as the Federal Election Commission (FEC) concluded

by dropping their investigation into the same matter. Other federal and local prosecutors who have previously targeted Trump in every other way have also shied away from the case. Dershowitz went on to say, "DA Bragg is using "made-up laws" to prosecute Trump under a federal statute in state court." Dershowitz added, "All decent people, whether politically opposed to Mr. Trump (as I am) or supportive of his candidacy, should be concerned about this weaponizing of the prosecutor's office for the political purpose of preventing a potential candidate from running for office."

In all actuality, the banana-republic style prosecution efforts by the Democratic Party are making a huge campaign donation to President Trump. This last-ditch effort to ruin Trump is going to light a fire amongst conservatives like nothing we have ever witnessed. Never in the history of America have we seen such vile actions by a political party as we are now seeing. The Democrat Party is evil to the core and no longer represents anything close to being associated with our Republic. They truly are a communistic regime.

As I have stated before, today's Democratic Party is not the same as your grandparents' Democratic Party. We, as a free nation (somewhat), are so very close to losing our country to the socialist/communist, that I am extremely concerned. The USA better wake up now! If we don't, we are going to wake up one morning and be the USSA.

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

Gardening Club of Hilliard News

The Gardening Club of Hilliard held a propagation seminar on March 14 during their meeting. The speakers were Master Gardeners Sarah McCullough and Lynn West. This was a fun hands-on learning session and enjoyed by all. All experienced doing cuttings and took home three plants.



Gardening Club of Hilliard meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at Bethany Episcopal Church in Hilliard at 11 a.m. All are welcome!

MOAA Chapter Welcomes Vietnam Vet and Astronaut



The Nassau County chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) welcomed retired Marine Colonel Bob Springer as the guest speaker during its monthly general membership meeting at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club.

A 1964 graduate of the US Naval Academy, Col Springer was a Marine Corps pilot who flew more than 500 combat missions in Vietnam. In 1979, he was selected to be an astronaut in NASA's space shuttle program. Col Springer regaled the members and guests with a lively, educational and, at times, humorous presentation that

included dozens of pictures and videos of his time as a fighter pilot and astronaut.

His initial space flight was delayed in 1986 due to the Challenger accident but he finally went in to space aboard Space Shuttle Discovery in 1989. Then, in 1990, he returned to space on the Space Shuttle Atlantis for a classified mission that he could not discuss with the audience. The interest generated by his presentation was evident in the dozens of questions posed at the conclusion of his prepared remarks.

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization and the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community.

Anyone interested in joining the MOAA Nassau County Chapter, visit: www.ncflmoaa.org/about/ or email Membership Director, Sonny Mann at: sonmann@comcast.net.

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US Hwy. 1, Callahan, will host breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Sat., April 1 from 9 - 11 a.m. Free breakfast, crafts and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Call 879-3662 for more information.

ARMS (Abuse Recovery Ministry Services) offers classes in your area where women will learn how to recognize, understand, and heal from issues of domestic abuse. Biblical principles to encourage beliefs and behaviors that heal. Call 503-846-9284 or 866-262-9284 for specific locations and times.

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Stability

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



On March 13th, River Road Baptist Church celebrated its 50th anniversary. I have had the honor of pastoring this local congregation for 13 of those years. A lot has happened in those 13 years. Do you remember what the world was like before COVID? Anniversaries are a time to reflect on the past. These times of remembrance always fills my heart with gratitude. Recent statistics reveal that only 5% of churches have more people in weekly attendance than pre-COVID. God has been good to River Road Baptist Church. We are in the 5% that we now have more people attending than we did before COVID.

When I reflect back even further, I am more amazed by the good hand of God. Let me just give you glimpse of what the world was like in 1973. The average family income in America was \$12,900. The average new house cost \$32,500. A gallon of gas cost .39 cents, minimum wage was \$1.60, and the average tuition at a 4-year public college was \$358.00. There were three significant events that happened in January of 1973. Roe vs. Wade legalized most abortions, the Vietnam War ended, and the military draft was concluded. In April of 1973, the first mobile phone call was made in downtown Manhattan by a Motorola employee.

Another unique historical fact from 1973 involves the World Trade Center. On April 4th, the World Trade Center was opened. At the time of its opening, it was largest building in the world. We all remember that the World Trade Center was closed and demolished because of the terrorist attack on 9/11. This boggles my mind. Who would have ever thought that the little church that started in a house on River Road would outlive the World Trade Center? It did. This is not a brag session about the greatness of River Road Baptist Church, this is a brag session about the stability and permanence that Christ offers.

Jesus is the cornerstone of the church (Ephesians 2:20). Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Time teaches us all that storms come and go. Storms are normal part of our existence in a fallen world. Christians and non-Christians both go through adversity. Everybody is building their lives on something. The only meaningful is question is: are you building your life on sand or on rock? The wise builder will have staying power, because he builds his life on the person and the teachings of Christ (Matthew 7:24-27). Christ is a rock and provides stability. A life built on sand leads to a great collapse. History and experience teach us that Christ is enough!

CHURCH NEWS

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US Hwy. 1, will observe the Lord's Supper Sunday, March 26 at the 11 a.m. service.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, Indoor Yard Sale will be held Friday, March 31 and Saturday April 1 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NCSO's Drone Unit Attends Discussion in Tallahassee

Last week in Tallahassee, Senator Tom Wright, District 08, held a panel discussion on drones and government regulations surrounding them, during the Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs, Space and Domestic Security. The goal of this panel is to discuss security standards for drones used by government entities and provide an opportunity for the Senators on the Committee to hear how government regulation of drone usage affects the end users.



NCSO's Detective Danielle Shough travelled to Tallahassee to attend the meeting in order to provide input from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Drone Unit and give perspective to the panel members so they could fully understand the effects that government regulation can have on the individuals utilizing a variety of drones to better protect communities across our state.

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Next Session: Tuesday, March 28, 2023

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We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorneys in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team!

Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy, the coordinator, at 904-548-4520 or email nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com.

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OREMC Foundation Celebrates Grant Awards

Next application deadline for grant requests is April 7

The Okefenokee REMC Foundation is pleased to announce grants totaling more than \$42,000 were awarded to 14 organizations in the first quarter of 2023, including four in Nassau County:



Barnabas Center in Callahan, received a \$3,000 to support its mobile food distribution program providing healthy food for hungry families in Nassau County. Accepting the award presented by OREMC Foundation Trustee Ramona Jones was Barnabas Center Chief Development Director Tania Yount and Front Office Receptionist Joyce Knox.



The Nest, in Yulee, has moved to a new location and their \$3,000 grant will assist in furnishing counseling rooms and stocking a new Baby Boutique offering much needed baby items to families in need. Financial Manager Rhonda Hall was thrilled to accept the grant from OREMC Foundation Trustee Ramona Jones.

Pinky Promise, in Callahan, is a resource center for women who have been diagnosed with cancer and strives to offer them products—wigs, sleep caps, scarves/head coverings, camisoles for mastectomy patients, chemo gift bags—free of charge to help them feel beautiful inside and out. The

\$4,000 grant presented by OREMC Foundation Trustee Ramona Jones and accepted by Founder Sybil Purvis and Board member Dawn West, will help them reach more women in need.



The Storehouse, in Callahan, will help stock the shelves of its food pantry with their \$2,500 grant. Serving 300 families with a twice-monthly food distribution, The Storehouse ministry helps feed families primarily in Nassau County, but also Camden and Charlton counties in Georgia. Vice President Carrie Mizell gratefully accepted the grant from OREMC Foundation Trustee Ramona Jones.



The OREMC Foundation is a launchpad for community development supporting education, community health and economic development in the six Georgia and two Florida counties OREMC serves. Currently, OREMC unclaimed capital credits are the primary funding source. The Foundation Trustees meet quarterly to review applications and make grant awards based on funds available.

The next grant application deadline is Friday, April 7, 2023. Applications and information are available online at oremc.com/foundation.

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 14

Dustin Alan Dontigney, 36, Hilliard: Battery Domestic Violence

Wednesday, March 15

Timothy Allen Blount, 39, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Community Control

Sunday, March 19

Jacob Thomas Frazier, 20, Callahan: Battery Domestic Violence (x 2); Aggravated Battery with Deadly Weapon

Christian Gynel Williams, 32, Hilliard: Battery Domestic Violence

NCSO Marine Unit Helps Rescue Couple

On Monday, March 20, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit and Nassau County Fire Rescue responded to the St. Marys River to help a couple and their dog who had been stranded for over 4 hours. The couple told the deputies they were leaving Cumberland Island to return to St. Marys when they ran into some motor issues. Thankfully they were only treated for mild hypothermia and taken back to downtown St. Marys along with their dog.



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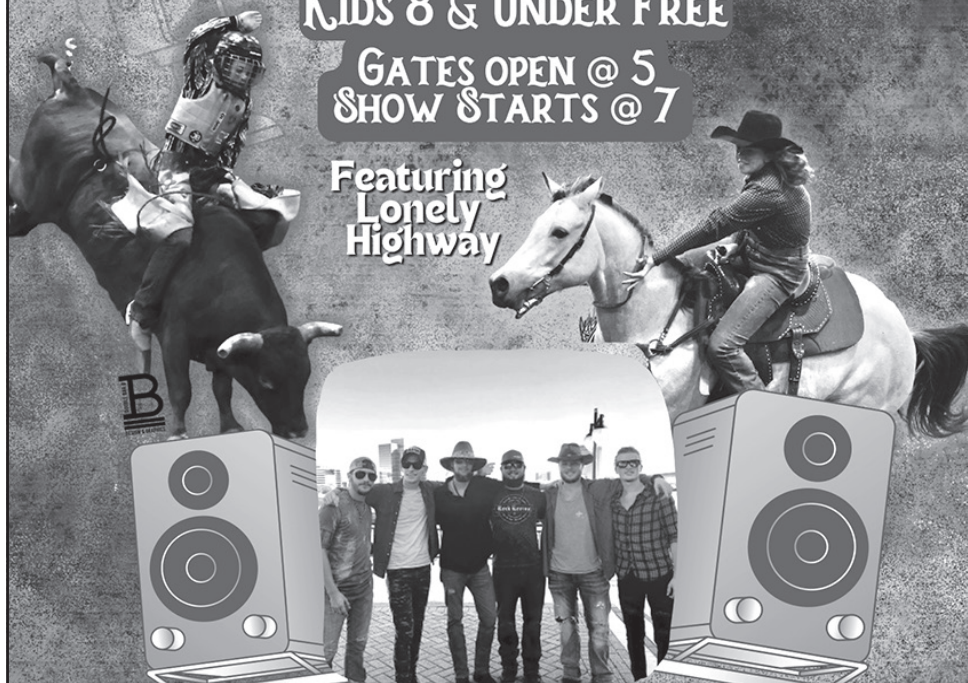
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NCSO Explorers Attend Training



This past weekend Nassau County Sheriff's Office Explorers attended the Florida Sheriffs Explorer Association-FSEA Spring Delegates Competition & Training which was hosted by Osceola County Sheriffs Office. Explorer Posts throughout Florida came together to train, compete, network, and plan for future training opportunities.

The following NCSO Explorers brought home awards: Elianna Riley won 3rd place at first time rim fire target shooting, Anjelica Miller won 2nd place at first time rim fire target shooting, and Isaiah Walton won 1st place at first time rim fire target shooting. The Explorers also trained in low light building search, defensive tactics, hostage negotiation, tactical med, and tourniquet application.

We are super appreciative for the generosity offered by Sheriff Marcos Lopez and the men and women of the Osceola County Sheriff Office for hosting this spring delegate event, it was a huge success!



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NCSO Volunteer Spotlight

Mr. James Dionne, Sr.

James Dionne, Sr., affectionately known as Mr. Jim, is a faithful volunteer with the Nassau County Sheriff's Office fleet division. He selflessly serves NCSO every Monday and Friday and has done so for the last fourteen years. In the 2022 calendar year alone, Mr. Jim contributed nearly 400 hours. When he started volunteering with NCSO he was a member of the Volunteer Patrol. While on Volunteer patrol he checked on seniors, helped with funerals, and assisted with traffic. He has also helped with multiple searches and even secured crime scenes when he was on post.

Before volunteering with NCSO, he spent 39 years serving in the Army, including fighting in the Vietnam War, and retired as a Staff Sergeant. Following retirement, he worked as a mechanic for Ryder Trucking for 25 years. Today, you can find him in the Fleet division where he services agency vehicles and teaches and mentors the younger mechanics. He shows them better ways of doing things and they look to him as a role model. Mr. Jim often makes himself available on days he is not scheduled to volunteer, will



travel out of town to pick up equipment, and is always thinking about officer safety.

His commitment to this agency has led to at least two offers of employment which he has humbly declined because he wants to give his time and talents to our agency. Volunteerism is a natural part of his life and the NCSO Fleet division has been enriched beyond measure by Mr. Jim. His positive attitude, efforts, and faithful service deserve to be recognized.

Westside Journal Visits Colorado!

Geri Lewis was very fortunate to spend about six weeks in Vail, Colorado, during the Christmas holidays with her daughter Holli Lewis Jarrett. While there, they visited Aspen, Breckenbridge, Beaver Creek, Frisco, Gypsum, Minturn, 4 Eagle Ranch and many other mountain towns and resorts and of course, they brought along the Westside Journal, too!



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NSCO Visits Hilliard Elementary

Students at Hilliard Elementary School were thrilled recently to have a visit from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, as community helpers. The students enjoyed a hands-on visit with one of the NCSO K9s, who loved the little ones. They also enjoyed climbing in and out of the vehicles!



Hilliard High School Prom King & Queen

Delaney Vennard and Austin Dinwiddie



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9 am - 2 pm	Vendor & Exhibit Areas Open to the Public
9 am - 2 pm	Loader Competition (Must be 18 to participate)
9 am - 2 pm	Truck Rodeo and Skills Competition (Must be 18 to participate)
10 am - Noon	Petting Zoo for Kids
10 am - 2 pm	The Meltdown Obstacle Course and Bounce House
10 am - 2 pm	Chainsaw Carving
Noon - 2 pm	Face Painting
1 pm - 2 pm	Raffle Wrap-Up

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Spring Vendor & Food Truck Market



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★★★ **Election Connection** ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

How Do I Know My Vote Really Counts?

Stan Bethea

A question often asked is: "How do I really know my vote really counts?" It is an excellent question and one that deserves an answer. Answering the question, however, is complex.

Election administrators have to balance the voter's right to a secret ballot against the transparency legally required to ensure a fair and secure election. Picture this. You go to the bank and deposit a bunch of coins. Once the coins have been accepted, deposited and credited to the correct account, the coins are intermingled with other coins in the till. It is no longer possible to determine which coins came from which depositor.

Now pretend the coins are ballots. Once the ballot is voted and counted, it is intermingled in the "till" with all the other ballots. A voter cannot be connected to his or her vote.

"But what about counting the votes?" you ask. Voting machines, or tabulators, are tested before each election to determine if they are correctly counting ballots and tallying votes.

Before each election, a pre-marked deck of test ballots is counted by each tabulation machine. If the results of the test run are correct, the tabulator is deemed to be usable for an election. If not, it is removed from service and repaired to working order.

After an election, one of two types of audits is performed.

The first type is what Florida Statute refers to as a Logic and Accuracy Test, where a race and a precinct are chosen

at random. Ballots from that precinct are retrieved and counted by hand.

The second type of audit scans all ballots using a tabulation system, separate and independent from the first system.

In both cases, the audit results are compared to the original vote counts to ensure correct tabulation.

Remember, if there were a way to connect individual voters to their ballots, then voting results would be known to all. This knowledge would remove the secrecy of the vote.

In short, if a voter could "see" that their vote counted, it would be possible for everyone to know how that voter voted, thus destroying secrecy.

Remember the coins I mentioned at the beginning? A bank credits the sum of the coins to the depositor, but it doesn't keep track of which coins he or she deposited. Likewise, we in the election industry, do not keep track of who votes for whom or what.

I hope this explanation sheds light on how votes are counted.

Please email me at NassauElectionConnection@gmail.com with your election-related questions. Who knows, your question may be the basis for a future article.

Stan Bethea is a life-long resident of Nassau County, currently serving as Director of Information Services for the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office. Stan has over 17 years of experience supporting over 50 successful elections.

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MARY CINDY ADAMS



Mary Cindy Adams passed away on January 14, 2023. Cindy recently retired from SanMar in Jacksonville. She was loved by her family, friends and colleagues. Some knew her as Mary or Cindy, but she was known as "CiCi." She had a heart of gold and loved her family and friends.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at her daughter's home, 44002 Squirrel Way, Callahan. All those who knew her are welcome to attend.

THOMAS HOWARD BUCHANAN



Thomas Howard Buchanan, 75, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away Tuesday, March 14, 2023. He was born July 4, 1947 in Sharon, Pennsylvania to the late Hugh Buchanan and Phyllis Jean McClimans Buchanan. He attended the Folkston Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Pamela Buchanan; three children James Russell Buchanan of Rome, Georgia, Bridget Maria Lindsey of Folkston and Jessica Ann (Joseph) Martin of Woodbine; sister Pamela (Jeffrey) Hicks of Hilliard; brother Wray (Janell) Buchanan of Waycross; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life service was held Sunday, March 19 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Rev. Robbie Paulk, Bro. Tommy Griffin, Bro. Rob Gillis and Bro. Randy Sapp officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Memorialization was by cremation.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Condolences may be expressed at:

www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

LORETTA GRIFFIS CONNER



Loretta Griffis Conner, 92, of Hilliard, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on March 18, 2023.

Loretta was born April 27, 1930 in Baker County, to Ernie and Nellie Osteen Griffis. She married the love of her life, Clyde W. Conner, on January 17, 1948 in Folkston, Georgia. Loretta drove a school bus for 28 years for the Nassau County School District. She loved spending time with her family, friends and neighbors. Loretta was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde W. Conner; her son Gerald D. Conner; parents Ernie and Nellie Griffis; brothers D.L. Griffis, Alan Griffis, Frank Griffis and Wayne Griffis; and sister Juanita Griffis Conner.

She is survived by her sons Lawrence A. (Mary) Conner and J. Stan (Karen) Conner; grandchildren Jason (Heather) Conner, Jessica (Joey) Pazzalia, Ryan (Amanda) Conner, Miraj (Nicholas) Misiaszek and Catherine (Mac) Reddick; great-grandchildren Tyler, Rilyn, Katelyn, Clyde, Adelaide and Emmeline Conner; brothers Joe (Mavis) Griffis and Harold (Angie) Griffis; sisters Ernie Mae Griffis and Bonnie (Otis) Varnes; and many loving nieces, nephews and their families.

The family will receive friends Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. prior to the funeral service at 11 a.m. at River Road Baptist Church, 21067 CR 121, Hilliard, with Pastor Eddie Griffis officiating. Interment will follow at Conner-Green Cemetery,

OBITUARIES

14150 Pond Fork Hollow, Hilliard.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Conner, Tyler Conner, Josh Conner, Brent Johnson, Dustin Williams, Chris Griffis and Chad Conner as Honorary Pallbearer.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the nurses and staff at Community Hospice at St. Vincent's of Jacksonville.

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

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

JIMMY CLAUDE COWART, SR.



Jimmy Claude Cowart, Sr., 78, of Hilliard, passed away Monday, March 20, 2023. He was born January 5, 1945 in Folkston, Georgia, to the

late Claude Mack Cowart and Beulah Allen Cowart. He proudly served his country in the US Navy. Jimmy attended the Church of God. He retired from the United States Postal Service after 33 years of service. His favorite pastime was spending time with his grandchildren.

In addition to his parents; he is preceded in death by a sister Barbara Ann Chesser; three sisters-in-law Faye Harris-McLaurin, Mary Alice Manning and Janice Harris; five brothers-in-law Elmo Harris, Mitchell Harris, Caroll "Hoppy" Manning, W.A. Hodges and Kenny Smith; and seven nephews Elton Harris, Jr., Burnette Harris, Shawn Harris, Danny Chesser, Neal Chesser, Ronnie Chesser and Steve Chesser.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Beatrice Cowart; four children Tammy Cowart, Tina (Bill) Carroll, Jimmy Cowart, Jr. and Latasha (Arliss) Carter; two sisters Zona Jeanette Hodges and Betty Sue Smith;

two brothers-in-law Elton Harris and Grant Chesser; three sisters-in-law Maxine (Johnny) Everly, Debbie (Dean) Woehrlé and Caroline Harris; three granddaughters Sara Carter, Ansley Carter and Rylie Carroll; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Wednesday, March 22 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Thursday, March 23 at Folkston Church of God with Bishop Rob Gillis officiating. Burial followed at Bethlehem Cemetery in Nahunta, Georgia.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

SANDY EDENFIELD



Sandy Edenfield, 59, stepped from this world into the presence of Jesus on March 15, 2023. She was born May 19, 1963 in Jacksonville. She was

a longtime resident of Folkston, Georgia and a member of Little Phoebe Primitive Baptist Church. If she could speak to us today she would tell of the wondrous beauty of heaven and tell us all to wipe our tears and cry not for her. With every drop of rain and ray of sunshine to close our eyes and feel her near. For she will never be more than a heartbeat away. Standing with Jesus to welcome her home were her parents Charlie and Emmie Wright; and parents in love Zelton and Sue Dixon.

Sandy was a wife of 35 years to her best friend and husband, Elder Floyd Edenfield; mother to Brandon (Destiny) Pooser, Brandi (Casey) Chriswell; and Sugar, her 4-legged fur baby; grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren Emmie, Madison, Mason and Miles; sister to Debbie Platts, Doug Wright and Francis Herrera; and many extended family members and friends loved Sandy. Each of them will feel the heartache of her

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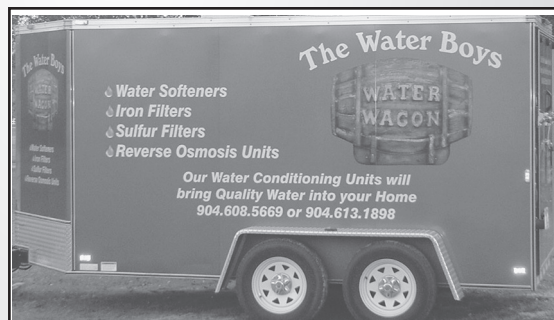
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passing in the days ahead.

The family received friends Sunday, March 19 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston. Sandy's homecoming celebration was held Monday March 20 also at the funeral home with Elders Kyle Lloyd, Willis Lee and Randy Strickland leading the celebration. Graveside services followed at Little Phoebe Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Cody Dixon, Kevin Wright, Hal Gowen, Justin King, Brian Edenfield and Richard Lafferty.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

CAROLEE McALLISTER GEIGER



Carolee McAllister Geiger, 94, of Jacksonville, went to be with the Lord on March 12, 2023. She was born February 4, 1929, in her parents' home in the Garden City community of north Jacksonville. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother; always caring about her family. She loved the Lord and was a faithful member of Garden City United Methodist Church since 1940. She was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Leonard E. Geiger, Jr; her parents Carl and Blanche McAllister; sister Rosalie West; and brother Jake McAllister.

She is survived by her son Larry Geiger; daughters Rita Geiger and Lynne Geiger; grandsons Lee (Allison) of St. Augustine; Jason (Diane) of Callahan; great-grandchildren Colby, Chase and Reagan; sister-in-law Martha McAllister; and several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Thursday, March 23 prior to the funeral service held at Garden City United Methodist Church, Jacksonville. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Her grandsons, great-grandsons and nephews served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Garden City United Methodist Church, Memorial Fund, 3057 Dunn Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32218.

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

Arrangements by Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, Jacksonville, 768-2956.

OBITUARIES

EDDIE LEE JORDAN



Mr. Eddie Lee "BB" Jordan, 67, of Callahan, known and loved by all as BB (Bogey Bear) went home to be with the Lord Sunday, March 12, 2023.

He was born November 29, 1955. Today we bow in humble submission to the will of God to thank him for the life of Eddie "BB" Lee Jordan.

He was a fun and loving man. BB was born to the late Henry and Margaret Jordan in Lessie, Florida. He attended the local schools in Callahan. BB married the late Mary Alice Jones Jordan and began his life in Callahan. BB was skilled at masonry. He used his talents while working for Jim Sawyer as well as working with his good friend Randy Higginbotham. BB loved his family and friends and showed it in multiple ways. He could always be counted on for a good laugh. BB was a devout Florida Gator fan. No one cheered or cut up more than he would at a Florida/Georgia game party.

He leaves to cherish his memories, loving and devoted mother-in-law, Alice Jones; children Bernard Jones and Carlita (Cathy) Jordan; grandchildren Brittany Jones, Briana Jones and Trevon Jones; four great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; siblings Henry Jordan, Violet (Stanley) Griffin, Marilyn (Bruce) Manning and Jacquelyn (Alvin) Davis; and a host of other relatives and loving friends.

The family will receive friends Saturday, March 25 from 9-11 a.m. prior to the homegoing service at 11 a.m. at Mt. Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, 58552 Coopers Neck Road, Hilliard.

Arrangements by Sara Carter Funeral Home in Jacksonville.

JAMES FRANKLIN MCGEE, III



James Franklin "Jeff" McGee, III, 80, of Thomasville, Georgia, passed away Monday, March 13, 2023 at his residence. James was born May 6, 1942 in Canton, Ohio, to the late James Franklin McGee, II and Lois Inez Huffmaster Bennett. He worked as the Chief of Maintenance for Flowers Bakery. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his children Jeff (Janet) McGee, IV of Callahan, Jennifer (Lin) Rhoden of Jacksonville and Royce (Mary) McGee of Thomasville, North Carolina; grandchildren Aaron Rhoden, Mabry McGee (Josh) Burch, Bobby McGee, Jeffry McGee V, Zach Rhoden and Montgomery McGee; great-grandchildren Ryan Burch and Heath Rhoden; and a brother Jon (Ruby) McGee of Thomasville.

The funeral service was held Friday, March 17 at Whiddon Shiver Funeral Home with Billy Wilson and Josh Burch officiating. Interment followed at Oak Hill Cemetery in Quitman.

Guests may sign the online register at www.whiddonshiverfuneralhome.com.

JESSE ANTHONY SIMS



Jesse Anthony "Tony" Sims, 63, of Hilliard, passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2023. He was born November 22, 1959 in Limestone, Maine

to Jesse Alvie Sims and Clara Frances Stregles Sims. Tony was a United States Navy Veteran, after serving 11 years. He retired from the Nassau County School System where he was in charge of intercoms and fire alarms.

He is survived by his parents Frances and Jesse Sims of Hilliard; his wife Bonnie Sims; four siblings Debra (Mike) Nickola, Patrick Sims, Kenny (Sherryl) Sims and Tracey (Danny) Conner; seven children Melissa (Scott) Dalton, Joshua (Kim) Sims, Amanda Long, Bridgett (Mark) Whitener, Ricky (Stacey) Lee, Chris Lee and Shawnee O'Neal; 17 grandchildren; best friend Charlie Reed; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Tuesday,

March 21 at Pigeon Creek Cemetery with Rev. Paul Lucas officiating.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

ELSIE C. WATKINS



Elsie C. Watkins, 77, of Hilliard, went to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on March 14, 2023. Elsie was born in Meadows of Dan, Virginia and attended the College of William and Mary, where she met her loving husband, Spotswood. The two were wed in 1965 and travelled Europe together before and after Spotswood left the US Army. They settled down in Hilliard in 1975, and welcomed two children, Spotswood Jr. and Sarah. Elsie owned and operated the Regina Motel in Callahan. Following its closing, she ran her own bookkeeping and tax preparation services out of her home until her death.

Elsie was an amazing cook and an avid crafter. All who knew her were both well-fed and kept warm by her creations. She will be greatly missed by all. Elsie served as Worthy Matron of Hilliard Order of the Star multiple times.

The family would like to thank Pastor Gerald Wollitz and the congregation of Rivers Edge Church, where Elsie was a beloved member. Their kind and loving support during this difficult loss has been immeasurable.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation be made to Rivers Edge Church in Elsie's name. The tribute above was prepared by Elsie's loving family.

At her request no service was held. Pastor Gerald Wollitz delivered a brief message at the end of the service on Sunday, March 19.

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

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HMSHS Flynn Signs with Seminole State



Hilliard Middle-Senior High School senior, Veronica Flynn, recently signed her letter of intent to play college softball at Seminole State College of Florida. Although she has a passion for racing go-karts, she has put that passion on hold to be a college softball pitcher. Flynn received a full-ride scholarship to play softball at Seminole State.

"I can't thank every coach enough that has helped me along the way to reach this achievement," said Flynn. "Mainly these amazing coaches: Coach David Toledo (Lady Blackhawks travel ball), Coach Rick Reynolds (Florida Freedom travel ball), Coach Michael Bryant, Coach Jake Self, Coach Bradley

Vennard, Coach Kearsten Holley (HHS), and most of all coach Larry Kershner (Pitching coach for 7 years)."

She plans to work towards a degree in sports medicine and be a sports therapist and coach. She currently holds a 3.6 GPA. "Never take your time playing for granted, the years go by fast. No dream or goal is impossible as long as you have the want, the faith, and the belief in yourself, without that you can't put in the work required to accomplish your goals," said Flynn. "Never give up, keep your head high and push yourself. Also, never work as hard as the person beside you, out work them."

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IF YOU'RE BUYING YOUR MEAT ANYWHERE ELSE, YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH!

<p style="text-align: center;">10 lb. Bag Fresh FRYER WINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$17⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2-Pack PORK BUTTS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1⁴⁹ lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ Limit 2 Packs With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RIBS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baby Back or St. Louis Style</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$2⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Half Hormel Spiral Sliced HAM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8-11 lbs each</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$13⁹⁵ ea.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ While Supplies Last With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sliced the way you like it!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$4⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lite Pork SPARE RIBS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2-3 Pack</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1⁷⁹ lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">OYSTERS!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$85 50 LB. BUSHEL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$45 1/2 BUSHEL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$25 PARTY BAG</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fresh, Meaty PORK NECKBONES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4-8 LB. BAGS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1⁰⁰ lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">USDA Whole T-BONES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$4⁹⁵ lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OX TAILS by the Case</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$6⁰⁰ lb.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Expires 3-28-23 WJ With this Coupon</p>

12545 N. MAIN STREET
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HOURS: 8:30 AM - 6 PM, CLOSED SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY

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