VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 36

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

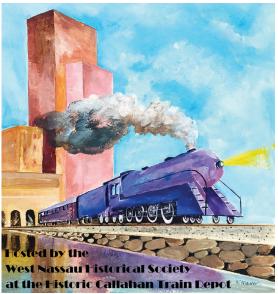
THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

Pray to God for

**Our Nation!** 

"I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS SO THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE COMPLETE." - JOHN 15:11

# **Railroad Day Festival** & Classic Car Show This Saturday



This Saturday, the 17th Annual Railroad Day Festival will be held in Callahan. The festival is the signature fundraiser for the West Nassau Historical Society. The Railroad Day Festival is an all-day event held in and around the historic 1881 Callahan Train Depot and adjoining 1856 Florida Railroad bed. This year's event will celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the construction of the Callahan Train Depot. Photos, artifacts and maps of interest will be on display inside the museum of local history section of the quaint wooden train station.

The Arts/Crafts vendors and Food vendors will open at 9 a.m. The kid's area will include Joel Pace hands-on music zoo and a scavenger hunt. Local live entertainment will perform on the main depot stage beginning at 9 a.m. The entertainment lineup includes: from

9 - 10:40 a.m.: Buck Lucontro, The Liberty Express, Benjie Años; and from 11:30 a.m. - 1:50 p.m.: Megan Stanford, Michael Ward Band, Harley Huff Band; and the final groups from 2:35 - 4 p.m.: No Filter and Whiskey Heart.

The Callahan Cruisers will host a Classic Car Show at Cochrane's Collision Center across the street from the depot. Awards for the Car Show will be announced at 2:30 p.m. Make sure to check out the Antique machines, tractors and scaled trains that will be exhibited outside the depot. Inside the Depot Annex you will find model train

layouts. This is an outdoor event so please bring your lawn chairs and enjoy your day checking out the history; looking at all the train history; shopping with the vendors; checking out the amazing vehicles at the Classic Car Show and of course eating! Admission is free!

The West Nassau Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to the preservation of Nassau County's rich and diverse history and culture as well as being entrusted with the upkeep of the historic Callahan Train Depot. Donations to the 501c3 organization are tax deductible in accordance to current IRS rules and always accepted.

For more information on the 2022 Railroad Day Festival, call the West Nassau Historical Office at 879-3406 or visit their website at: www.wnhsfl.org.

**NAMI Support Groups** 

of people with mental health challenges. Meetings are structured, confidential and inclusive.

Anyone 18 years or older is welcome. For more information, check our website at www.

Friday from 11-12:30 at Council on Aging, 1901 Island Walkway, Fernandina Beach.

NAMI Nassau County FL holds free support groups for peers and for friends and family

Connections Group for Peers (those with a mental health challenge) are held every

Hilliard Family Support Group meets Wednesday, April 6 and will continue to meet, the

first Wednesday of each month, from 12 noon - 1:30 p.m. at the Hilliard Journey Church,

# Sportsman's Sunday at Liberty Baptist

Pastor Adam Pierce

We are excited to invite you to another Sportsman's Sunday at Liberty Baptist

Church in Callahan this Sunday, April 3 at 11 a.m. This is an outreach event for the whole family! Although we have had our challenges the last



is the "Big Buck" presentation. We are asking all who attend to bring their best whitetail deer mount for all to see. There will also be

some great prizes given out during the FREE Barbeque lunch, which follows the service under the tent! Liberty Baptist truly loves Callahan and the communities of Nassau County! Please join us for a great day!



The speaker for the event will be Mitchell Johnston. Mitchell is a multiple time World and National Turkey Calling Champion. His is also the founder and CEO of Dead End Game Calls. He is sponsored by Mossy Oak, a spokesman for the National Wild Turkey Federation and an Ambassador for the Lord Jesus

Christ!

Liberty **Baptist** Church is located at 55045 Mt. Olive Road (off of SR 200), Callahan. The event will be held Sunday, April 2 at 11 a.m. at the back of the church property under a huge tent. All are welcomed to attend, enjoy the speaker, have some food and fellowship!



will be our best. The inception of this community outreach was in 2018 and was a great success for us as a church family. We scheduled a "2nd Annual" in September of 2019 only to be cancelled by Hurricane Dorian. We rescheduled for March of 2020 and well...I guess there is no need to explain that one! Although we certainly believed we

were ready to return in the spring of 2021, we chose to wait a little longer for the overall safety of those in our community.

Now it is 2022 and we have fresh hope! Our purpose for this Free Annual Event is to reach those in our community, without a church home, who



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### CIS Faculty & Staff Celebrate



Callahan Intermediate School's teachers and staff were treated to an afternoon at the Cottonwood Ranch. The school celebrated the recognition of an A school from the state of Florida for the 2020-2021 school year. The event was possible thanks to countless community members and businesses.









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Advertisement Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m. Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 12 p.m. WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

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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.

#### Our Country!

Dear Editor,

Roger's last "Opinion" literally made me cry real tears, not the Dems hypocrite tears. My grandfather was in WWI, my father in WWII, and almost lost his life in battle. Got a bronze star and was wounded throwing a grenade into a cave over his head to stop the slaughter of our young men. My husband was on the Franklin D Roosevelt CV -42 in 1962 at 21 facing the Russian subs with Nuclear Bombs on board.

What pains me the most, is nine out of 10 kids I ask, have no idea what the confrontation was about. If the Russians had gotten in, it would be over by now. No glorious country for all these past 60 years.

For all of you ungrateful people that lived that history of freedom, you have finally managed to give it away! Why didn't you ostriches and idiots move to Russia, Cuba, Iran or Iraq to see how you liked it first. You would probably not even know you lost freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, or even buy the kind of gas or light bulbs you wanted like

we did! Why did this particular column make me cry? I can't even bear to think of all those lives, all those men and women maimed for what...a bunch of people who now are eager to throw it all away?

This country has been taken over by transgenders, homosexuals, environmentalists, who think we owe more allegiance to Saudi Arabia and Arab Emirates than to the poor working man trying to feed his family on minimum wage, while buying \$100 a week worth of gasoline. More for gas, less for groceries, ever think of that?

Father God, we beg you to save these unworthy people so that we might bring up our children again in a country that loves and serves God, Amen.

In closing, I want to say how my heart was so happy to read Mr. Douglas C. Pearson, BR McConnell and of course Roger's patriotic writings while we are still privileged to.

Proudly, loving my country as it was meant to be!

Jackie Sikes

### Homeless Outreach Held Sunday

Be the Change Northeast FL volunteers visited downtown Jacksonville Sunday for their monthly homeless outreach! Come by and see "Be the Change" volunteers this Saturday at the Railroad Day Festival! Donations of hygiene items, wash cloths and monetary donations will be accepted to further their work in the community!



# In the Kitchen...

1 can cream of mushroom, celery or chicken

5 - 7 medium potatoes

1 large onion

### **Creamy Potatoes**

1 (16 oz.) sour cream shredded cheddar cheese water

Mix together 1 can of soup, can of water and sour cream. Thinly slice potatoes and onions. Layer in baking dish. Pour soup/sour cream mixture over and bake at 350° until potatoes are cooked. Top with cheese and bake until cheese is melted.



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# **APRII**

APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
tt+ Easter					NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	2
3	Food Giveaway FBC Gray Gables 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Callahan Town 7 p.m.	5 Exchange Club 11:30 a.m. Fernandina Golf Club NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch.	Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m. Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m. Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 10 a.m Noon	8  NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging American Legion & Auxiliary Post 401 Hilliard 7 p.m.	9 Callahan Farmers Market 9 a.m 1 p.m. Callahan Depot Hilliard Town Clean-Up 9 a.m 12 p.m. Waste Tire Amnesty Day 9 a.m 12 p.m. Callahan Convenience Center
10	WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Lions Club Food Giveaway FBC Gray Gables 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Country Star Quilt Guild 6:30 pm @ The Anchor	Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m. Library Advisory Board 3 · 5 p.m. Hilliard Library	Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	14	NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging Hilliard Prom	16
Easter Sunday	Callahan Town 7 p.m. Westside Optimists 7 p.m. Lions Club Barnabas Food Fairgrounds 12:30 - 2 p.m. Sons of Confederate Veterans 7 p.m. The Pig	19 NARFE 11 a.m. The Pig NAMI Family 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch. Bryceville Club 11 a.m. NC Young Republicans 7 p.m. Fairgrounds	PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	21 Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m. Food Giveaway @Callahan First Saptist 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	23 R. Niel Hampton Memorial Golf Tournament
24	25  NC Beekeepers Association 7 p.m. Multipurpose Building Food Giveaway FBC Gray Gables 9:30 am - 2:30 pm	Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	Pree Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	28 Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot	NAMI Support 11 a.m 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	30 West Nassau Prom

# **EVENTS AROUND**

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US 1, Callahan, will host a FREE Breakfast with the Easter Bunny Saturday, April 9 from 9 - 11 a.m. There will be Easter crafts and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Call 879-3662, for more information.

Callie Kay's General Store will have FREE Easter Bunny Photos Saturday, April 9 at their Hilliard location, 553027 US Hwy, 1 from 2 - 4 p.m. and at their Waycross location, 210 Plant Ave. from 10 a.m.

Roger R. West

I have to believe that our biggest problem is that we have forgotten how to be Americans. The mind-set of today would have never built such a strong powerful freedom if it had been the mind-set of our founding fathers. We as a nation have to return to our roots in order to re-establish our greatness we once had. I read a post on social media that explains it in a superb way.

It is accurately titled: American's Creed."

I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon. I seek opportunity to develop whatever talents God gave me – not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any earthly master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations and to face the world boldly and say – This with God's help, I have done. All this is what it means to be an American.

We as Americans have lost our backbones! We are a nation of pacification! We have to wake up that ole American spirit and fight for what is right and rightly ours as a nation. John Hancock stated, "Resistance to tyranny becomes the Christian and social

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duty of each individual...Continue steadfast and, with proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which Heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us."

Did you read that, "Christian duty?" The churches have to get involved by informing their followers about our God given rights and inform and warn them as to what the Government is taking from all of us. The churches have to make a stand against tyranny instead of cowering to the government in fear of losing their tax-exempt status. Continue cowering and the government going to take that just as they took God out of schools and public spaces. We have to have a concerted force of Christians and forever Americans in order to save our nation.

Just in case you haven't figured it out yet, the ruling democrat socialists have chosen Israel's enemies over Israel, Muslims over Americans, Socialism over Democracy, Communism over Capitalism, Criminals over Police, Globalists over America, Wall Street over Main Street, Illegal Aliens over Citizens and Atheism over Almighty God! (copied)

I will close with a quote from the (acting) President of the United States, Joe Biden, "The only way to spare more pain and more loss the only way...these no stones no longer mark our national mourning, these milestones, I should say no m-no longer mo-mmhh mark our national mourning."

WOW! Yes, we are in deep trouble! As always...that's just my opinion!

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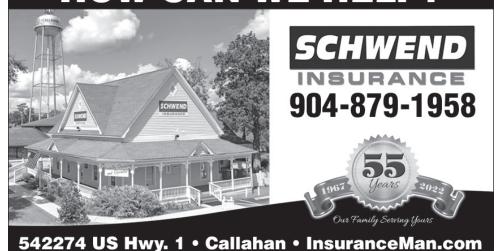
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### What Should a Christian Believe?

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



I am often asked, as a pastor, about pressing issues in society today. These subjects change rapidly as the world changes. It seems as if any subject is driven by the vast reach of social media. With social media you have the platform for ideas and, this is where division occurs, opinions. Everyone seems to have an opinion about any issue even if they know nothing about the topic. We do not know all things, as God does, we ask Google. Most claims of truth are opinions shared by those we trust with

little knowledge, conviction or research of our own. Social media refers to this as a "share." So how can we know what the truth is and not a perceived truth? Or what is referred to today as..."My Truth." This idea of "My Truth" creates a dangerous world where every individual is the authority and that authority should not and cannot be argued with by anyone. This is a wrong way of thinking.

So, who lays claim to "the truth?" John 17:17 (KJV) states, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." So having an understanding that the Bible is the very words of God, not man's words, means that we have a source. An authority. That authority is the Bible, His word. His word is the final authority.

I am honored to have been asked by the Westside Journal staff to contribute an article on occasion. In the articles ahead I will be writing on relevant subjects in society and answer the question, "What should a Christian believe about...?" My answers will not be mine, but answers from THE authority, the word of God. Remember, Satan's subtle attack has stayed the same since the Garden of Eden when he asked Eve, "... Yea, hath God said ...?" Genesis 3:1 (KJV).



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### Tropicana Speeches at CIS

Tracy Cruce, Gifted Teacher

Callahan Intermediate School recently hosted the annual Tropicana Speech Contest. Nine 4th grade students and nine 5th grade students competed in the contest.

Congratulations to 4th grade winner Bryce Martin; and 5th grade winner Jordan Long. Bryce and Jordan will compete in the county competition on Friday, April 8.



### U.S. Constitution Bowl Next Tuesday

The U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation will be holding the Constitution Bowl, Nassau County's "Academic Super Bowl" Thursday, April 7 at 6 p.m. at Wildlight Elementary School. The contestants will be teams from the four Nassau County High Schools and the Home Educated community. Bradley Bean will be the moderator for the event. The winner of last year's event was the Hilliard High School team coached by Michelle Anders and Robert McCannell. There will be a Watch Party at the Council of Aging Senior Center in Hilliard for up to 100 people who want to see the event but cannot get to Wildlight.

This year the coaches and schools participating are: Michelle Anders and Robert McCannell from Hilliard High School; Caleb Bryan from West Nassau High School; Steve Rathmann from Fernandina Beach High School; Thomas Blake from Yulee High School; and Wyatt Jeremiah from the Home Educated community.

The winning school will retain the trophy for the year and each member of the team will receive a \$1500 scholarship. The members of the 2nd place team will receive a \$500 scholarship.

INDOOR YARD SALE: North Hilliard Baptist Church, Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., north of Hilliard on US 1. Clothes, Collectible Dolls, Craft supplies, furniture, appliances, etc.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, would like to invite all men to our Men's Prayer meeting held the first Monday of each month (April





Dear Bryceville & Hilliard Residents,

It has been a great pleasure for our team at Bert Norman's Plumbing to service the Bryceville and Hilliard areas for the past 35 years, but unfortunately, we will no longer be able to do so after January 1, 2021. We appreciate all the support from the community and wish everyone the best with their plumbing needs in the future.

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### Hilliard Parks & Recreation News

Gabe Whittenburg, Director, Parks & Recreation

Greetings from Hilliard Parks & Recreation! With the sudden change in the weather patterns between rain and colder weather, it may have been hard to notice - but Spring has arrived! With the more welcoming weather, I hope you will be able to come out and visit one of our parks. We have three parks in town where everyone young and old can come out and enjoy the day. This is truly one of the best times of the year as the weather begins to warm and the trees and flowers begin to bloom. We are working hard to improve the condition of our facilities here at HP&R and have some exciting news to share on the horizon. I hope you will be as excited as I am about our future.

Not only is our future bright here at the park, we also have a lot going on right now for you to enjoy. First, we are in the middle of our spring soccer season. Once again, I am thankful for our community who has come out to support this program. We have 90 players participating this season which is a 67% increase over last season and 91% increase over the average of the previous five years. We have also been able to introduce our community to a park that isn't frequently visited by hosting our games at our North Oxford Street Park. I personally think this venue is a hidden gem. It is a historic baseball venue that I am hopeful to restore to its previous glory. We currently are utilizing the outfield for games across three age divisions. As I have noted previously, soccer is not my strong suit. However, I am thankful for those in the community who have offered a helping hand this season.

As for what is ahead, we are looking forward to our Summer Camp. We have some great plans this year for our Summer Camp and are currently finalizing our plans for our field trips and our weekly themes. Our camp runs from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the entire summer. This can make for long days, especially when the weather doesn't want to comply with our plans. However, the highlight of the day for the kids is the pool. Speaking of our pool, it is about to undergo a muchneeded makeover. Starting in the next few weeks, our pool will be resurfaced. I am excited about this as it is a muchneeded maintenance item. It will be completed in time for summer camp as well as the opening of our pool which is traditionally Memorial Day weekend. As for our camp, our registration will open in April...Stay Tuned!



Finally, I would like to encourage you to join many who have decided to join our fitness center or have started one of our SilverSneakers classes. We really do have something for everyone here at the park. If you have any questions about anything related to our parks, programs or facilities, please feel free to reach out to us directly at 904-845-2733 or me personally at gwhittenburg@townofhilliard.com. It is always a great day at Hilliard Parks & Recreation!

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# CALLAHAN CHICKENS AT THE RAILROAD DEPOT

Red Callahan Chickens (Auburn Hackles) and Golden Callahan Chickens (Golden Hackles) will be on display at the West Nassau County Historical Society railroad depot on:

RAILROAD DAY THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Callahan Chickens are hybrids between beautiful, heat tolerant, Phoenix Chickens and Blue-egged Ameraucanas. They resemble the Phoenix breed but lay larger light blue eggs like the Ameraucanas.

These chickens are bred and born in Callahan and raised without the use of vaccines or medicated feed.

Culls from our breeding program and also a few birds that meet our breed standard will be available for purchase.

All proceeds from this sale will be donations to the West Nassau Historical Society, and a \$20 purchase will include membership in the Historical Society if you wish.



For more information call Tommy Palven (904) 879-7094

All of the chickens in our program have been organically raised without medicated feed or vaccinations.

Florida Nursery Registration #480IJ336

### Raffle to Benefit Bo Crews



In January, Bo Crews, of Hilliard, was in a terrible log truck accident where he was ejected from the truck. Bo suffered a severe head wound causing him to lose alot of blood, a broken clavicle and transverse process spinal fractures. Since then, he has been on the road to recovery and obviously out of work due to his injuries. He and his wife, Kristie, still have daily living costs and bills, so as you can imagine, this has been a trying time.

Hagan Ace Hardware in Hilliard has generously donated a Yeti Tundra 35 cooler

to be raffled off with all proceeds benefiting Bo and Kristie. The cooler is valued at \$275 and the tickets are \$10 each. The drawing will be held April 8. Tickets

may be purchased at the Westside Journal office, 450034 State Road 200, Callahan or by contacting Kristie directly. Those wishing to donate via check or cash can drop donations off at the Westside Journal office. Checks should be made to 'Kristie Crews'.

Family members have set up a GoFundMe account "Let's help Bo and Kristie through this tough time!".







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Fostival

**April 2, 2022** 

& Classic

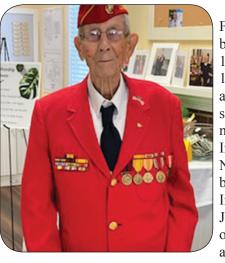
Car Show

Railroad Day

at the Historic Callahan Train Depot

# New Beginnings and Milestones

# Fim Thomas Celebrates 101st Birthday



James 'Jim' Madison Thomas, of Fernandina Beach, celebrated his 101st birthday March 31! He was born March 31, 1921 in Yulee. He was born the 10th child of 11 children. His father passed away in 1938 at age 64 from a heart attack. At 17, he quit school and joined the US Marines with his mother's approval to help support his mother. In 1941, he was stationed in Jacksonville, North Carolina in tent barracks while the base (Camp Lejeune) was being constructed. In December 1941, he well remembers the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In the spring of 1942, he got a 30-day leave, went home and got married to Anne Walters, a marriage

that lasted 65 years. Thomas lived in Callahan for several years before returning to Fernandina. He served as District 5 County Commissioner from 1964-1968; and later served on the School Board. He was a contractor well versed in all the aspects of building: construction, plumbing, electrical, etc. He is a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church in Fernandina Beach. He was surprised Sunday at his church, Fernandina First Presbyterian, with an early celebration in his honor!

He has four children; 17 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and 13 greatgreat-grandchildren.

# Dayton Ed Higginbotham

Jonathan Heather Higginbotham, of Callahan, are proud to announce the birth of their son Dayton Ed Higginbotham. Dayton, named after his late uncle Dalton Ed Nettles and great papa Ed Higginbotham, was born March 20, 2022 at 3:37 p.m. at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville. He weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and measured 21 inches.



"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..." Jeremiah 1:5 We thank God everyday for this beautiful amazing baby boy!

Fun,

Family

Activities

**NEW OWNERS!** - LAND CLEARING

• STUMP GRINDING

DIRT DELIVERY

 FORESTRY MULCHING - DEMOLITION

TREE REMOVAL



# Saturday, April 2nd

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Historic Callahan Train Depot** 45383 Dixie Avenue

CAR SHOW 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. KIDS' PLAY AREA 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. Hosted by Joel Pace Music Studio

**Depot Historic Marker Dedicated** by the Princess Amelia Chapter, Colonial Dames 11:30 a.m.

Hosted by the West Nassau Historical Society

From the Liz Mobley Main Stage

- Buck Lucontro 9:00 am

9:35 am - Liberty Express

10:10 am - Benjie Años

10:45 am - Welcome & Sponsor Recognition Ceremony

- National Anthem by Buck Lucontro

11:30 am - Megan Stanford 12:20 pm - Michael Ward Band

1:10 pm - Harley Huff Band 2:00 pm - Classic Car Show Awards

2:35 pm

3:20 pm - Whiskey Heart

From the Depot Front Platform and Midway 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. - Kidz Zone & Hands On Music Zoo **Presented by Joel Pace Music Students** 

Entertainment Coordinator - Jerry Peterson • Emcee - Buck Lucontro

Car Show portion presented by Cochrane's Collision and Callahan Cruisers. All proceeds from this event go to the non-profit West Nassau Historical Society. For more information or to join the all-volunteer nonprofit, visit www.wnhsfl.org.

# Thought of the week...

Jesus, may they know I'm a Christian by Your love.



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### HMSHS FBLA Compete



Hilliard Middle-Senior High School had 28 students to compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference. During the Conference four students placed which includes: Gavin Gatlin 1st Place in Network Design; Avery Johnson 3rd Place in Supply Chain Management; Tristen Roddenberry 4th Place in Computer Game & Simulation Programming; and Corbin Poteet 4th Place in the Middle Level Marking Mix Challenge.

The other students competed in the following events: ML Business Ethics, ML Business Etiquette, ML Career Research, ML Exploring Business Issues, ML Exploring Computer Science, Advertising, Business Communication, Business Ethics, Business Law, Business Plan, Computer Problem Solving, Graphic Design, Health Care Administration,

Insurance & Risk Management, Introduction to Business Procedures, Introduction to FBLA, Introduction to Financial Math, Introduction to Information Technology, Political Science, Sports & Entertainment Management, Website

Design. Congratulations!



Avery Johnson





Tristen Roddenberry

# Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Westside Regional Park

A Groundbreaking Ceremony was held Monday, March 28 at the location the upcoming construction of Phase One of the Westside Regional Park. The ceremony was held at the property for the future park located on US Highway 1 north of Pratt Siding Road and directly across from Mizell Tract

Road. Several county officials were on hand for the occasion.

The overall conceptual plan for the park was devised from community input collected from a series of citizen surveys and a public outreach event which concluded that residents wanted a variety of recreational facilities and programs that include far more than youth athletics. The conceptual plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on May 24, 2021.

Phase One of the park will feature a variety of amenities including pavilions throughout the park, outdoor event/ green space, community playground with shade, restrooms, multi-use trails,

a fishing pond and multi-purpose fields. This vibrant park will serve as a regional destination delivering recreation, leisure, social interaction and educational opportunities for the entire spectrum of the public.

Nassau County Parks & Recreation Director Jay Robertson said, "The first step is the engineering, which will probably take until the end of the year. Hopefully construction will begin, barring any setbacks by January 2023."

If you have any questions, please contact Parks & Recreation Director, Jay Robertson at (904) 530-6127 or email him at: jrobertson@nassaucountyfl.







### April 3rd - 11am - Free Admission

#### Show off your best trophy whitetail mount!

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



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



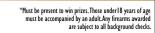
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OF NASSAU COUNTY visit: bgcnassau.org/employment. 33122

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HEAVY DUTY PARTS STORE, located on the westside of Jacksonville, has positions open for a DELIVERY DRIVER and COUNTER SALES/ WAREHOUSE person; full or part-time hours available; hours M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For Delivery Driver you must have a clean driving record; Drug Free workplace. Call (904) - 384-0990 to discuss your qualification, experience and starting pay. 40722

M & E MASONRY is looking for LABORERS, transportation a must, no experience necessary, starting pay, \$18 - \$20/hour. Call 904-766-3961.

SANDHILL RECYCLING is hiring for part-time office help. Must be able to multi-task, learn fast and be organized. Need to have computer skills, answer phones and filing. Call 904-225-2801 to set up an interview, 40722

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#### YARD SALES

INDOOR YARD SALE: North Hilliard Baptist Church, Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., north of Hilliard on US 1. Clothes, Collectible Dolls, Craft supplies, furniture, appliances, etc.

YARD SALE, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. VFW Post 10095, Hilliard, across from the Hilliard Airpark. Everything that can fit into a bag for \$5.00! New donations, come check us out and help support our Veterans.

INSIDE MOVING SALE! Friday, 10 a.m. until? 450870 Old Dixie Highway, Callahan. Furniture, small appliances and more! Sign in upon arrival. No reasonable offers refused!

FRIDAY, APRIL 8 & SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 8 a.m. -2 p.m., 344440 Old Baldwin Road (off Sandy Ford). Bikes, Ray Dunn, luggage, tools, purses, silverware, glassware, books, craft supplies. EVERYTHING MUST GO! 40722

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believe you have been discriminated against or would like further information about your rights or obligations under the Fair Housing Act call Jacksonville Area Legal Aid at 904-356-8371

### 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.

Jimmy Lee Grubbs, Jr., 19, 37605 W. First Street, Hilliard: Possession of Schedule I Substance (more than 20 grams Cannabis)

Robert Wavne Sheffield, 65, 16847 Oak Hill Road, Hilliard: Felony Battery with Prior Conviction

#### Sunday, March 20

Thomas Leo Kline, 47, 37151 Dayton Avenue, Callahan: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon

Jimmy Lee Grubbs, Jr., 19, 37605 W. First Street, Hilliard: Introduce Contraband into Jail Facility (x 2)

#### Monday, March 21

Amanda Hodges Morales, 39, 45128 Music Lane, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Alprozolam

#### Wednesday, March 23

Christopher Reece Tanner, 21, 44080 Oakwood Lane, Callahan: Possession of Schedule I-5 Substance

### Supervisor of Elections Alerts Voters to **Unofficial Voter Registration Mailings**

Janet H. Adkins, Supervisor of Elections for Nassau County, alerts voters to unofficial voter registration mailings. Over 700 Nassau County residents will receive letters from the Voter Participation Center or the Center for Voter Information in the coming weeks. Each letter contains a pre-filled voter registration application form, and a return envelope addressed to the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections office.

The Voter Participation Center and the Center for Voter Information are third-party nongovernmental organizations and are not affiliated with the Nassau County Elections office. The Nassau County Elections Office has not printed, distributed, nor provided the data used in these mail pieces. You may contact these nongovernmental organizations directly to request removal from their future mailings:

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Voters can check their official voter registration status by visiting the Elections Office website at: www.VoteNassauFL.gov and selecting "Am I Registered?." To register to vote, visit: www.VoteNassauFL.gov and select "Register to Vote" under the Voters menu.

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#### HARLEY CONNIE BASS



Harley Connie Bass, 20, of Callahan, passed away March 13, 2022. He was a bright spark in this world and will be deeply missed. We will all miss him

more than words can say.

He is survived by his mother Tanya and Albert Gordy; his father Jason Bass; his older brothers C.J. (Sharon) Bass, Donavan (Jamie) Bass and Zachary Bass; nieces and nephews Bentley and Briggs Bass and Ella and Brooks Bass; stepsister Cheyenne; grandparents Daniel and Sandra Greenhalgh, Clara Bass and Betty Gordy; as well as his extended family and an abundance of friends.

A celebration of life service was held Saturday, March 26, in his honor, at the American Legion Post 401 in Hilliard.

#### DEBORAH F. BOHANAN



Deborah F. Bohanan, 61, of Hilliard, passed away on March 17, 2022. She was born on September 13, 1960, in Jacksonville, to James

Robinson and Joann Elizabeth Mullany Robinson. She is preceded in death by her parents; and brother James Robinson.

Deborah is survived by her loving husband, Preston Bohanan; son Shane Bradford (Monica Womack); daughter Talli (Ethan) Hygema; grandchildren Lily Hygema, Lucas Hygema, Baby Hygema; sister Cindy Robinson; Wesley (Judy) Robinson, Brooke, Alauna, Annsley, Cody Robinson, Ariana Robinson, Aubree Robinson, Brylee Robinson, Tommy Owens, Jason Kiser, Tyler Kinser.

A memorial service was held Wednesday. March 23 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

# **OBITUARIES**

#### KENNETH GENE CRAVEY



Kenneth Gene Cravey, 74, passed away March 27, 2022 in Jacksonville after a sudden illness. Ken was born in Jacksonville and lived in

Callahan during his formative school years, having graduated from Callahan High School in 1966. He and his wife Gay have lived in Ortega area of Jacksonville for several years. Ken had a great sense of humor, and he leaves behind many fond memories for those who knew him. Ken's passion in life included surfing, sailing, and sports car racing. After high school, Ken worked for Southern Bell in Fernandina Beach and Jacksonville, and he eventually retired from Flagship Property Management in Jacksonville. Ken is preceded in death by his parents Norma and Marvin Cravey of Callahan; and a son, Billy Whitt.

Ken leaves behind his wife of 27 years, Gay Ann Cravey; two daughters Wendi Restrepo and Lauren Cravey; three brothers Marvin Cravey, Jr. (CHS 1961), Jerry Cravey (CHS 1965) and Randy Cravey (CHS 1968).

A celebration of Ken's life and a funeral mass service will be held Thursday, April 7 at 4 p.m. at the Saint Paul's Catholic Church, 2609 Park Street, Jacksonville.

REBECCA LYNN ERVIN

Rebecca was born in Trenton, New Jersey

on October 8, 1982 to Mr. John Ocker and

Mrs. Rae Johnson. Rebecca was a dedicated

wife, mother, daughter and friend. She had

made Baldwin her home for the last 12

Rebecca Lynn Ervin, 39, of

Baldwin, went to her heavenly

home Sunday, March 20,

2022 at Community Hospice

at UF Shands of Jacksonville.

years and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Baldwin. She enjoyed cooking for her church family, volunteering at her children's schools and was always caring for others. She never met a stranger and was a friend to everyone she met. Most of all she will be missed and remembered as a loving mother and wife.

She is survived by her husband of nine years, Kyle Ervin of Baldwin; children Bryan Martens, Ellyssa Ervin and Kenneth Ervin; parents John Ocker of New Jersey; and Rae Johnson of Baldwin; father and mother-in-love Harry and Judy Ervin of Baldwin; as well as a grand host of friends, family and church family.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 2 at the First Baptist Church of Baldwin at 11 a.m. with Pastor Chris Drum officiating. Memorialization will be by cremation.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to: the Pinky Promise Foundation, PO Box 1934, Callahan, FL 32011 in memory of Rebecca.

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

Please leave your condolences at: www. forbesfuneralhome.net.

#### SANDRA LYNN KALLAS



Sandra Lynn Kallas, 58, passed away peacefully Monday, March 21, 2022, in her sleep. Sandy loved spending time with her family, especially

her grandchildren. She was well known for her crocheting and talented handmade crafts. She attended Kings Road Baptist Church and loved her church family. Sandy loved the beach and we know she is walking the shoreline in Heaven looking over us.

Sandy is survived by her loving husband of 39 years, James Kallas, Jr.; three children Joshua (Chloe) Kallas of Newport News, Virginia, Jeremy (Amber) Kallas of Yulee and Joseph (Carrie) Kallas of Jacksonville; three grandchildren Michael, Landon and Keilani; and many loving nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Sunday, March 27 at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Sandy's life was held Monday, March 28 also at the funeral home. Interment followed at Manntown Cemetery in Glenn St. Mary.

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

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

#### ALEXANDER MIDDLETON, SR.



Alexander "Buddy" Grandville Middleton, Sr., 88, passed away March 27, 2022 at home with his wife, Vonnie Middleton, by his side.

Alexander was born in Hinesville, Georgia, to Bertha Nimerfroh (Taylor) and Marshall Middleton. He grew up in Georgia along with four siblings, Lola Collins, Lourise Oldham, Loretta Tereney and Irene Nimerfroh, until he joined the United States Marine Corps, where he remained active duty for 27 years. Retiring as a Master Gunnery Sergeant, he was discharged from Parris Island in North Carolina with honors after multiple tours in Vietnam and Korea. He later worked and retired from Ryder after 20 years of service. He served as a Deacon at River Road Baptist Church for 22 years. Alexander reached Master Mason in the Masonic Fraternity, where he formed strong bonds that remained throughout his life. During his time at River Road Baptist Church, he visited church members and their families at their homes, hospitals and death beds as a calm, caring presence.

Alexander remained a proud Marine until his death, and a United States flag and Marine Corps flag still flies at his and Vonnie's home. He always gave so

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# **OBITUARIES**

much of himself to others and was a light in the darkness for everyone who had the privilege of meeting him. With all of his accomplishments, he felt his greatest one was being a husband, father and grandfather. He was forever an optimist and the rock that held his family together. His loss will be felt by all those who have been touched by his loving spirit. Since Alexander has touched so many lives, all services will be open to anyone who wishes to pay their respects.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Vonnie; their five children, Alexander G. (Sherry) Middleton, Jr., Cindy Martin, Mark (Amy) Middleton, Michael (Tammy) Middleton and Elizabeth Middleton; eight grandchildren; and eight greatgrandchildren.

The funeral service will be held Saturday, April 2 at New Life Baptist Church in St. George, Georgia from 10:30-11 a.m. Burial will follow at River Road Baptist Church Cemetery, Hilliard. Afterwards, friends and family may meet at New Life Baptist Church for a reception in the fellowship hall.

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

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

# Obituaries are published free of charge.

Email: news@westsidejournal.net.

#### MYRTICE RHODEN



Mrs. Myrtice Rhoden, 95, of Hilliard, went home to be with the Lord Saturday, March 26, 2022. She was born in Baxley, Georgia to the late Willie J.

and Mabel C. Johnson. Mrs. Rhoden was a 72 year resident of Jacksonville before moving to Hilliard six years ago. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who was ever faithful to the Lord. She enjoyed reading and quilting and will be lovingly remembered as "a little firecracker." She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Jesse Merle Rhoden; and daughter Merlene Nobles.

Mrs. Rhoden is survived by her daughters Edna (Les) Ditchek of New Smyrna Beach, Melissa (Doug) Coaker of St. Louis, MO and Mechele (Clint) Stokes of Hilliard; son-in-law Carl Nobles of Hilliard; brother Delano Johnson; 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A celebration of her life will be held Thursday, March 31 at 1 p.m. in the chapel at Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin with Reverend Danny O'Neal officiating. Interment will follow at Riverside Memorial Park, Jacksonville. The family will receive friends prior to the service at 12:30 p.m.

Please leave condolences at: www. warrenfuneralservices.com.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin is honored to serve the Rhoden family.

### FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Gray Gables Baptist Church 54031 Church Rd. • Callahan Mondays 9:30 am - 2:30 p.m.

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