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WESTSIDE JOURNAL

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Sunday, March 12

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 32

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

“BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS.” - PHILIPPIANS 1:6

NCSO Partners with NE FL INTERCEPT



Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper is proud to announce that the Nassau County Sheriff's Office will partner alongside other Northeast Florida law enforcement leaders, the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, State Representative Sam Garrison, Operation Lightshine and the Tim Tebow Foundation to help combat child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Together this group created the newly formed Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force by combing public-private partnerships. INTERCEPT stands for Inter-agency Child Exploitation and Persons Trafficking Task Force. Operation Lightshine, is a non-profit organization dedicated to combating Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking.

Along with help from the Tim Tebow Foundation, both organizations are funding this project and providing resources to local law enforcement. During the press conference on Thursday Tim Tebow read a letter from a young girl who had been a victim of human trafficking every night for six years. "She's crying out to everyone for help. 'Rescue me.' Today, we want to listen. We want to act," said Tebow.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Cyber Tipline received over 29.3 million tips in 2021 with over 99% of those regarding incidents of suspected Child Sexual Abuse Material. That was an increase of 35% from 2020 when just under 22 million tips were received. In 2022, Northeast Florida accounted for over 2,300 combined child exploitation and human trafficking cases. "We all have one mission in common. Our goal is to protect our children in our communities. That's why it's important that we bring these traffickers to justice and make sure they are prosecuted for this



Callahan Honors WNHS Varsity Cheerleaders



Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first regular meeting of March. The first order of business was honoring the West Nassau High School Varsity Cheerleaders with a Proclamation. The cheer team recently competed and won the FHSAA State Title, UCA National Title and UCA World Title for the Small Varsity Non-Tumbling Division in Orlando. The proclamation was read by Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge. The proclamation read, "The governing body of the Town of Callahan stands firmly committed to the promotion and celebration on the achievements of the West Nassau High School students and their accomplishments toward academic and athletic success; the sport of cheerleading fosters

teamwork, dedication and life skills that prepare participants for the future; the cheer team is coached by Samantha Beazley; the Mayor and the Council of the Town of Callahan congratulate and recognize the West Nassau Varsity Cheer Team for their achievements."

Mayor Knagge presented the proclamation to Coach Beazley and each of the cheerleaders also received a copy of the proclamation.

The other agenda item concerned Resolution 2023-R03 which concerned returned checks from customers. The town will now place a fee of \$20 on returned checks and will not accept checks from a customer after a returned check. The council approved the resolution.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

heinous crime," said Sheriff Leeper.

The law enforcement agencies partnering in the NEFL INTERCEPT TASK FORCE include the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations. All seven of these agencies have dedicated full time investigators and resources who will work tirelessly to investigate child sexual exploitation and human trafficking cases within the Northeast Florida region.

The community can get involved too and do their part to help. Specifically citizens can report any information about human trafficking, child sexual abuse or the trafficking in child sexual abuse material by immediately calling the Nassau County Sheriff's Office at (904) 548-4034, or you can report it to Federal law enforcement at 1-866-347-2423, or you can remain anonymous by reporting the information to First Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS, or report it to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children through their tip line at 1-800-843-5678 or report it to: report.cybertip.org.

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A Word From the Publisher

Last Friday, Roger received the sad news that his uncle, Jake McAllister, had passed away. Jake was Roger's mother's brother. He was the youngest of the three McAllister children, Rosalie, Carolee and Jake. From the first time I ever met Uncle Jake, he treated me as one of his own. He was always such a jolly man. He had a smile that lit up the room and a very strong voice to go with it.

He was the son of Carl and Blanche McAllister and they lived in Garden City in Jacksonville. Their children, following their marriages, remained near them in the area for years. Uncle Jake owned the Banner Food Store at the corner of Trout River Blvd and Lem Turner Road for years. From there, he made many lifelong friends. He was so outgoing and loved people.

He later sold the store and tried to dive into retirement. He and Aunt Martha sold their home in Jacksonville and eventually settled in The Villages in central Florida. It was quite a change from Jacksonville but in a good way. He continued to golf with new friends and they traveled around the area in their golf cart, as that is life in The Villages. They enjoyed their new life and friends and were very active. Uncle Jake even purchased a motorcycle for a time. He enjoyed taking long rides and Aunt Martha also enjoyed her time riding with him. We invited them to come to our house for our after Thanksgiving oyster roast and chili get together. We were thrilled when they came. All three siblings were here, along with a host of other family members. Certainly an evening I will never forget.

A memorial service for Uncle Jake will be held this Saturday, March 11 at 11 a.m. at Garden City Methodist Church.

I'm so thankful for the sweet memories I have of Uncle Jake. He was only my



uncle by marriage, but to him it made no difference. It's a reminder of how special family is and how many times we take it for granted. Many of us have family members we perhaps don't see or even talk to. How quickly things can change in the blink of an eye. It certainly puts things in perspective. Family is everything.

I'm so in awe of the families God has provided for me. My entire family is amazing and I'm also blessed to have a wonderful extended family. It's sad that it takes us getting old to realize how important life is, time is and moments are. As I sit here with tears in my eyes, I've also failed to reach out to extended family and just let them know, I love them. Life is so short. Each and every day, it's so important to live each day to the fullest. There is no time in this world for being selfish...there's enough of that without us feeling that way too. I've learned to have 'my time' in my moments. God has blessed me so much in my life with my loving husband, amazing children and grandchildren and parents that blow me away every day with their strength. Maybe today, take time to reach out to someone you haven't in a long time. It will be so fulfilling for you both.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

Baptist Nassau Auxiliary \$5 Trunk Sale

The Baptist Medical Center Nassau Auxiliary presents a \$5 Trunk Sale on Friday, March 17 from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. The sale will include jewelry, scarves, leggings and some novelty merchandise like flashlights, key chains, manicure kits and more. Items are priced at \$5 each. The sale will be held at Baptist Nassau Hospital, 1250 S. 18th Street, Fernandina Beach, in the Conference Room near the Amelia Breeze Café. All proceeds will go to support Baptist Medical Center Nassau and our community.

The Baptist Nassau Auxiliary are a group of almost 200 women, men and teens helping support Baptist Nassau. Our mission is to cooperate with the administration of the medical center, to foster goodwill in the community, to render volunteer service to the medical center, to facilitate the care of patients and to contribute to the various needs of Baptist Medical Center Nassau from the resources of the Auxiliary. The role of the auxiliaries is to augment, but never to replace paid personnel and/or professional team members. As ambassadors for the hospital, we take great pride in all we do to support the hospital.

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Gray Gables Baptist Church 54031 Church Rd. • Callahan
Monday, March 13 • 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Callahan First Baptist Church 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan
Thursday, March 16 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

West Nassau High School SAC meeting will be held Wed., March 15 at 3:15 p.m. in the school library.

The West Nassau Genealogical Society meets the second Monday of each month (March 13) at the Callahan Lions Club at 10:30 a.m. Visitors welcome!

In the Kitchen... Easy Sour Cream Cheesecake

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 (9") prepared shortbread pie crust | 2 large eggs |
| 2 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese | 1 cup sour cream |
| 1 cup white sugar | 2 teaspoons vanilla extract |

Preheat the oven to 325°. Place pie crust in a pan. Cream together cream cheese and sugar. Add eggs one at a time, blending well. Add sour cream and vanilla. Pour into prepared crust in the pan. Bake in the preheated oven until the cake is set and jiggles evenly across the top when lightly shaken, 60 to 70 minutes. Run a knife around the outside edge but leave the cake in the pan. Let cool on the counter, then place in refrigerator. Remove from pan when completely chilled, and serve.


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The Westside Journal is published every Thursday by Westside Journal, LLC, owned by Roger and Dawn West. Printed by Florida Sun Printing in Callahan, Florida. Mailed free of charge to all residents in postal zip codes 32011, 32046 and 32009.

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

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Hilliard Town News

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of March. The first order of business was the discussion again concerning a process to close, abandon or vacate, streets, alleys, easements or right-of-ways, within the Town of Hilliard. Town Attorney Christian Waugh addressed the council to request another brief workshop on this issue. Waugh is currently working on an ordinance to address this however would like a little more input from the council. The workshop was set for Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The next agenda item concerned awarding the mowing contract for the town. Public Works Director Ritchie Rowe advised the council he received three bids for the 3-year contract. The bids included: North Florida Lawn Maintenance, \$32,989.68; Eagle Lawn Care of NE FL, \$68,000.00; and Dixon Tree & Lawn Service, \$70,840.00. The council questioned the bids concerning the lowest price being so much lower than the other two. The council chose North Florida Lawn Maintenance at a cost of \$32,989.68. The owner will have until Monday, March 6 at 5 p.m. to accept or reject the bid.

The following item was a request to hold a Car Show, organized by David Taylor, to be held on the Town Hall property at the new Town Hall Park in September. Taylor plans to have the Callahan Cruisers of North FL to be involved and also maybe some vendors. The town approved the request and asked that the final details, once discussed, come back to the council for approval.

The council approved Resolution 2023-06, which concerned a Manual of Standards and Specifications for Utilities Construction for Waste and Wastewater Utility Specifications and Documents.

Public Works Director Rowe recommended approval to hire Justin C. Tuten as a Streets and Water & Wastewater Technician at \$15 per hour as a non-exempt, introductory or probationary employee. The council approved the recommendation.

The council approved the new

contract for Audit and Accounting Services for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2023, 2024 and 2025, with Powell and Jones, CPA.

The following item concerned Town Attorney Waugh entering into a discussion with CSX Railroad concerning and old contract. "Recently, the town received an invoice from CSX Railroad concerning maintenance at the 6th Street crossing," said Waugh. "An old contract was found however there was no money amount mentioned and the town never received a bill until recently. This is only giving me approval to negotiate on the Town's behalf concerning this old contract." The council approved Attorney Waugh to discuss this issue with CSX.

Resolution 2023-05 was approved which concerns a Resolution amending Resolution 2022-08, adding a fee for Development Investigation Applications; adding a deposit in addition to consultant cost plus 10% for the Town of Hilliard.

The next item was a request from the Hilliard Gardening Club to landscape around the 'Welcome to Hilliard' sign on US Highway 1 northbound. "The Hilliard Gardening Club would like to landscape around the 'Welcome to Hilliard' sign on the northbound side of town," said Jacqui Galbreath, Garden Club member. "The landscaping looks pretty rough and we'd like to take care of it. We plan to use crosssties to surround the area. We are also asking for the council's support to pay for the supplies."

The council approved the request and allowed \$1,000 for the landscaping of the area.

The following three items were approved which concerned finishing out the FRDAP Grant money for the Town Hall Park Phase I, \$82,217.73, to CXT Incorporated; Oxford Street Park Phase IV, \$10,936.00, to MAE Contracting, LLC; and Oxford Street Park Phase IV, \$15,267.00, to MAE Contracting, LLC. The lump sum for all three of the grants was \$200,000.00 for each project.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 16 at 7 p.m.



JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Let's begin with a quote from Bill O'Reilly, "The Vice President of the United States is a perplexing woman. Just inches from being the most powerful person in the world, she doesn't seem to understand what the deuce is actually happening in this country. I mean one slip backwards on the Air Force One steps, and Ms. Kamala is in charge of us all." If that's not a sobering thought I don't know what is. I cannot even begin to imagine "Kackling Kamala" being acting President of our country. It is difficult to ascertain whether she is really as stupid as she portrays herself to be or is a facade?

As we should all know by now, the entire Biden Administration is an illegitimate group of morons and Kamala fits in very well. She has mastered the democrat lying routine exceptionally well, or she is just really that far out of reality? Just recently she spoke to students at Bowie State University located in Maine. She spoke about how the Biden administration has done such an excellent job lowering heating and electricity costs. While in reality, American consumers have paid 12 percent more for electricity and 27 percent more for natural gas. Fox Business reports that under Biden's regime, the price of fuel is up 28 percent in 12 months.

Biden as well as the democrat platform is based upon lie after lie after lie. They get away with all the lies because they have a liberal sympathetic news media that will do anything to keep the democrats in power. Also, as I have stated before, we have a populous that believes anything they hear because they have been brainwashed. Of course, they deny that fact because, they have been brainwashed. O'Reilly states, "Kamala is just a small part of the massive problems with America. However, she goes out and says whatever she's told to say. On the economic acumen front, the woman couldn't run a car wash. But the worst part is she doesn't care what the truth is."

In Biden's State of the Union speech, he utilized one of the old democrat bait and switch tactics when he proudly

announced he had cut the deficit by \$1.7 trillion dollars. What actually transpired is, during the "Covid Scam," over \$3 trillion dollars were earmarked for emergency Covid relief, when the emergency was cancelled the payments ceased. This action resulted in \$1.7 trillion dollars not spent. It did not reduce the deficit; it just kept the deficit from increasing. Obama and Clinton were masters at this game. A quick analogy would be me telling Dawn I'm going to buy a yacht for \$500,000.00. Then the next day I tell her we are \$500,000.00 to the good because I didn't buy the yacht. No, we are not \$500,000.00 to the good; we are right where we were and not in debt. To set the record straight, I would have a hard time affording a fancy Jon boat j/s.

In other parts of America, the almost never expected is happening. Wal-Mart is closing their stores in Portland, Oregon. This action will leave about 600 people unemployed. The reason they are pulling out of Portland, retail crime spikes in the city. These closures follow the consequences of the 2020 BLM-Antifa riots that helped justify and normalize urban criminality and retail theft. This is what happens when leaders embrace the defund police movement. A Nike store also closed its doors due to increased theft in Portland. Nike requested to pay off-duty police officers to provide security, however Mayor Ted Wheeler turned down the request. Wheeler's director of community safety wrote in an email that Portland needs even its off-duty police to be available for the city's safety. She wrote, "We already rely heavily on OT to reach minimum staffing levels for regular shifts, so there is no way we could provide dedicated officers to any business, regardless of its willingness to pay for the costs." The term "go woke go broke" is not only affecting businesses but it is also affecting local governments. I can only imagine how much Portland will now lose in tax revenue. This type of circumstances is nothing less than a snow ball rolling downhill. Things have to change soon, come on 2024!

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



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Courage During Trials

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



Two weeks ago, we played in our final basketball game with Hilliard Parks & Recreation, team White verses team Gold. Both teams were undefeated for the season. This was a group of fine young men because they were very athletic and competitive. All the players were excited to go head-to-head for the first time. Parents, grandparents, siblings and other teams with their coaches stayed around to watch the game; it was magical. The fans were expecting a good game of basketball and we gave it to them.

When the buzzer sounded to start the game, there was electricity from the players, coaches and the fans. Even though all efforts were made to evenly distribute the talent on all teams, there were some differences. Some of the players were taller, faster, some could jump higher, but it didn't stop all the players from trying. Both teams played with great determination and heart, they all showed courage during their trials.

In the word of God, David encourages his son Solomon to find courage under trials. It states in 1 Chronicles 28:20, "And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

When we are faced with all kinds of trials, we should do just what David told Solomon to be strong and of good courage. David's sheer confidence in what God can do not only for him but also for his son Solomon. We should also look to Jesus for strength and courage, no matter how hard it is for us to continue in our trials. When we lean to God our father during situations, it shows courage during our trial.

The stories of courage in the Bible give us hope and a doorway to overcoming anxiety, that we face daily. The Bible tells us of many men and women who defeated their fear and anxiety by learning to depend on God. I believe their faith in God will inspire us to be courageous, too. The book of 1 Samuel shows the power struggle between the Israelites and their chief enemy at the time, the Philistines. Though King Saul and the Israelite soldiers were disheartened by the daily threats of their enemy's giant, David took courage to fight Goliath. His courage in God motivated him, despite his stature or age. David took his former experiences and his faith in God to find courage during his situation.

In 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37; David takes a stand on his faith in God as he tells Saul that he will fight the Philistine. "And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." "And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

When we take courage in God during our trials, we can be victorious like David or the basketball players. We know the key to our victory is leaning and depending on God for courage during our trials. Grace and Peace from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

First Assembly Offers Classes

Hilliard First Assembly of God located on US 1 South in Hilliard, will begin a Living Free "Stepping into Freedom" class, the 12 Step approach to Becoming Free in Christ again. The classes began March 7 but are still welcoming new members. The purpose of this class is to help develop roots and steadfastness in Christ so you can confidently master any life-controlling problems you encounter: drugs, alcohol, sex, gambling, codependency, etc. It will benefit anyone who wants to "...grow in the grace and knowledge of

our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18).

The church will also offer: "Conquering Life's Challenges with Christ." This is an emotional support group for ladies who are struggling with life's challenges. The goal is to encourage one another through Jesus Christ.

These classes are open for anyone struggling and would like help and encouragement. Both classes are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For more information, call 904-845-2642.

Parents Night Out!

First Alliance Church of Hilliard would like to invite parents and care takers of young children to a night out to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with that someone special. This is a free Child Care event ages 3-13. Dinner will be provided along with crafts, games, and prizes. All Volunteers are background vetted for your peace of mind! Please RSVP by March 15.

Friday, March 17 • 5 - 10 p.m.

37207 Mill Street, Hilliard

For more information Pastor James MacFarlane (904) 424-3552.

YOGA at THE HILLIARD LIBRARY

Yoga: Come join us at the Hilliard Library at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays beginning March 14. Event is free to attend; sponsored by our Friends of the Hilliard Library. Call to register as space is limited (904) 530-6500, ext. 4.

CHURCH NEWS

Friendship Alliance Church, 44491 Mary Sauls Circle, Callahan, will begin KIDZ Jam Adventures on Wednesday nights March 15 - April 19 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. for children ages 5 to 5th grade. For more information call 879-1907.

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville monthly Gospel Sing will be held Friday, March 10 featuring The Duncans and our hosts The Gospel Sounds at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, Children's ministry is up and running on Sundays from 10 - 10:45 a.m. for children ages 12 & under.

Sanctuary Baptist Church meets Sundays at 6pm at the Callahan Community Building located at 45401 Mickler St. in Callahan. Join us as we Worship Jesus.

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Living Financially Free

30 Ways to Save Money

Yvette Outler



Financial modifications are made for a reason and some for a season. As you look over the money saving ideas below be mindful of that if you implement any of these they can be for a “season,” not forever. When you can effectively win at the small time frames, then that opens the door for a longer journey of successful savings! Dave Ramsey says, “If you don’t tell your money where to go then you will end up wondering where it went.”

Here are 30 ideas to help you save money:

1. Do away with the satellite Dish! (To stream, all you need is internet.)
2. Cut the cable!
3. Change cell phone plans. (If you are spending more than \$25 a month for unlimited coverage you are spending too much.)
4. Don’t eat out.
5. Bring your own lunch to work.
6. Wash your own car.
7. Use an antenna for local television.
8. Wash your own dog.
9. Don’t buy bottled water.
10. Mow your own grass.
11. Shop Insurances – home, auto and health. (At least once a year)
12. Unsubscribe from all store/shopping emails or text. (This takes that easy temptation away)
13. Meal prep and plan.
14. Color your own hair. (At least every other time)
15. Give an act of service instead of a storebought gift. (Babysit or clean their home)
16. Do your own nails. (At least every other time)
17. Bake your own birthday cake(s) for loved ones.
18. Stick to the grocery list! (You can

do this!)

19. Buy store brand items.
20. Download free apps to bank money for your purchase(s).
21. Clean your own house.
22. Have a yard sale and bank the earnings.
23. Eat leftovers.
24. Cut your subscriptions.
25. Go paperless billing.
26. Change to auto debit for routine bills.
27. Downgrade your internet.
28. Use only one streaming service.
29. Cut out meat twice a week.
30. Avoid the purchase of “dry clean only” clothing.

Pro tip: A free online money tool for budgeting is Dave Ramsey’s “Every Dollar.” I use the simple, user-friendly, free version (of course), and it helps us keep up with all our financial stuff. “Every Dollar,” will be the help you didn’t know you needed to maintain your budget.

If you have some ideas that are not covered below, please share them with me. I would love to see your money-saving tips.

Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey’s Solution Master Financial Coach. If you are in over your head in debt and need hope and help, contact her at Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com.

Sweet Memories

Ed Marsh

Nostalgia was once considered a disease, a mental disorder. “The psychic pain associated with longing to return home.” I called Callahan home for over three decades. And while I’m happy with the life I now live, I sometimes have a hankering to travel back to the Callahan I once knew.

When I was around age six or seven, Mrs. Boughner’s store was located where Teenie’s now stands. I lived within walking distance. That is, I was allowed to walk there as long as I was with my older friend, Raymond Fachko. Mrs. Boughner was elderly, and so was the store. It was mostly empty except for a glass case that held candy. At least, that’s the only merchandise I noticed. For a dime, I could stuff a small, brown paper bag with enough old-fashioned penny candy to satisfy a little boy’s sweet tooth for at least a day.

When I was a little older, maybe eight, Raymond and I would cut

through our block to the old Conner Building and Long’s Sundries, owned and operated by Stanley Long. There, perched up on a stool at the counter, I was introduced to cherry cokes from the soda fountain, banana splits and ice cream sundaes. This last concoction was a delectable combination of ice cream, walnuts in maple syrup, chocolate syrup and whipped cream, topped with a sweet, red cherry. The anticipation of watching Stanley create it was nearly overwhelming, and the taste did not disappoint. Proper etiquette demanded saving the cherry for the last bite.

My Callahan visits these days are short, but that’s just as well. My life is elsewhere. The structures that housed my childhood treats are long gone. Only sweet memories remain. Yes, I think nostalgia is a disease. And the only cure is one more serving of Stanley Long’s chocolate sundae, with a bright, red cherry on top!

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

The Jacksonville Main Library has an excellent genealogy section located on the 4th Floor, with personnel to help in your search. Most sources are for Jacksonville and Northeast Florida, but it also contains various records for all the Southern States and some Northeast states.

These records consist of the federal census, cemetery, marriages and land records. It also contains county, church and family histories and a variety of other information and documents including information and records of the War Between the States.

To learn more, come and join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings held the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club. Visitors are always welcome!

Visit us anytime at: www.mywestsidejournal.com

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Hilliard Football Signs Three



Last Friday, three Hilliard Middle-Senior High School seniors signed to further their football careers after graduation. Quarterback Lyle Bennett signed with Warner University in Lake Wales, Florida. Stepping in at quarterback as a freshman, Bennett grew into the position and became the leader the Flashes needed. With 5,542 total yards and 90 total touchdowns in his high school career, Bennett led his team well into playoffs for three consecutive seasons. He was an assistant coach for a youth football team this past season and enjoyed teaching the sport he loves. His plan is to major in Business and minor in Sports Management to eventually coach football at the college level. Lyle's proud parents are Kristopher and Randi Bennett of Hilliard.

Gavin Spurlock has been a four-year starter for the Flashes playing

Center and Guard. He was an asset to the offensive line throughout his high school career. Spurlock signed with Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina. While undecided on his major, Spurlock is leaning toward nursing or sports management. He is currently playing baseball for the Flashes and is on the A-Team. Gavin's proud parents are Keith and Amber Sweat of Hilliard.

Seth Boswell, Right Guard for the Flashes, signed with Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky. While making his presence known on the field, he also works and maintains a 3.5 GPA. Seth's proud parents are Joey and Erin Sloan of Hilliard and Andy and Julia Boswell of Crescent City.

Congratulations and best of luck at the next level.

WNHS Key Club Donates to Pinky Promise



The West Nassau High School Key Club, who is sponsored by the Westside Kiwanis Club, recently held their February 2023 Service Project. The club chose to collect items to prepare Chemotherapy bags to donate to the Pinky Promise Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit resource center for ladies that are diagnosed with cancer of any kind. The Pinky Promise provides head coverings, wigs, sleep caps and chemo bags for the ladies. They also offer conversation with other ladies that have traveled down the same road. The Pinky Promise Foundation is located directly across from the Callahan Elementary School in the Harper Rose Cottage. The hours are Tuesday & Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, call 904-626-2855.

The Key Club students collected individually wrapped Kleenex packs; small hand lotions; small hand sanitizers; individually wrapped candies and mints; word books; inspirational books; anti-slip socks; chewing gum and lip balm. The club ended up donating 40 Chemotherapy bags and a \$100 donation to the Pinky Promise Foundation in Callahan. The WNHS CNA Program also donated \$100! Great job to these students!



HILLIARD YOUTH FOOTBALL ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 29th at 6 p.m.

Stein Tompkins Sports Complex
175355 Bay Road • Hilliard

For more information, contact Hal Keene at 904-860-1202 or Deanna Brown at 904-521-5816.

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Saturday, March 11th

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\$15 Donation per Meal • Served from 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Please pre-order to guarantee your meal - 845-7300

'Feeling Lucky Basket' Raffle! \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets

Test your Irish Luck! Winner drawn March 11. Do not need to be present to win!

American Legion Unit 401
37405 Henry Smith Rd • Hilliard
904-845-7300

Friends of NRA Event This Saturday



It's not too late for you to make plans to attend the Nassau County Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association) event this Saturday, March 11 at 5p.m. The event will be held at Camp Sorensen, CR 121 in Hilliard. What is Friends of NRA? It is a program of the NRA Foundation a non-political 501 charity. We raise funds by hosting these events. Before covid, we hosted 1100 annual events across the United States.

Where does the money go? Funds are distributed to LOCAL organizations through a grant process. Friends of NRA supports public safety, ranges and improvements, shooting sports and education. To find out more, visit: www.friendsofnra.com/grants.

There is also a pre-event raffle? The cost per ticket is \$20. WINNER TAKES ALL in this raffle. The winner of the raffle will receive: a Henry Lever Action 22, a Savage 110 Engage Hunter .308 WI, a Weatherby synthetic 12 gauge 28" and a Centurion 24" "Loaded" fireproof gun safe (the safe is valued at \$2,149.00). The drawing will be held at the event and the winner does not have to be present to win. Raffle tickets,

\$20 each, are available for purchase through Friday at: the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan; R & R Wings, Hilliard; and First Coast Pawn & More, Callahan.

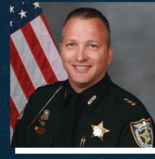
Buy a table, get a gun! We have different levels of tables available for the night of the event. Each table seats 8 people. The tables are named Liberty (\$1,000), Patriot (\$1,500), Table of the Year (\$2023) and Freedom Tables (\$5,000). The more expensive the table, the higher the value of the gun you will receive. There are also event tickets for \$40 each; or the Date Night, with 2 tickets, dinner, \$100 fun pack, \$175. For tables purchases call Shelia, 838-0677 or Karen, 903-9552.

What can I expect at this event? You will be amazed at the number of firearms available. There will be games, raffles, a silent auction and a ladies table. If you purchase a table, you will receive a fun pack which includes funny money that can be used to play games. All game prizes are guns. There is also a wall of guns – If you win this game, you can choose which gun you want from the selection posted. There are handguns, rifles and shot guns on this wall. There will also be raffle tickets available for sale the night of the event. All raffle prizes are guns!

For questions or to purchase a table for the event, call Shelia, 838-0677 or Karen, 903-9552.

NASSAU COUNTY OVERDOSE AWARENESS SEMINAR

Bringing awareness to the opioid overdose crisis and helping our communities overcome it.



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Nassau County
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Greg Roland
Assistant Fire Chief
Nassau County
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Dr. Scott Miles, MD
Coastal Community
Behavioral Health



Dr. Kathy Knight-Burns,
Superintendent
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March 12, 2023 @ 11am

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FREE ADMISSION - MARCH 12TH - 11AM

Sportsman's Sunday is a family focused event giving an opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate our Creator and His creation. There will be exciting things for every member of the family! We are offering a challenging Bible message from multi-time world and national turkey calling champion Mitchell Johnston from Dead End Game Calls, Godly music from Glory Quartet, free BBQ lunch, interactive booths, and prizes.

"Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison." Genesis 27:3

- YOUTH TURKEY CALLING CONTEST
- FREE BBQ LUNCH
- DOOR PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS
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904.879.5287
Pastor Adam Pierce

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*must be present to win prizes - **those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult - ***any firearms awarded are subject to all background checks

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Do you hear what I hear?

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

Young people, "between the ages of 19 and 35, need to get their lives in order!" That line was from a story, with a high-ranking anonymous source in the pentagon, a couple weeks ago. We didn't hear much about it as it was buried very fast. But the message rings true.

We had a visitor stop by the other day, much as he has done for years, on a weekly basis. He was checking up on his 'ole mom and dad and letting us know how things are in his life. Of our two sons, he has made his life here, in northeast Florida. When asked why, his answers vary. But when pressed for the truth, it is very much the same as of generations ago. "To be here when, and if, my folks need me."

We did not encourage this, nor did we discourage it. We raised both our sons to explore their interests and follow their dreams, much as many of us did from the "Baby-Boomer" era. If that took them to other parts of the world, so be it. If that prompted them to move not far away, that was ok too. The primary joy of all parents, is to watch their kids develop into responsible adults, who have values that are cherished and that their endeavors are the rewards of doing something that they love to do. In that light, we have been very blessed. Neither son will become the target of the IRS, for their vast earnings, but both will always be able to say that they are doing what they love and are more than rewarded by the self-worth that they have experienced. They have also become a very good barometer of the generations, as they experience life.

So, what does all this have to do with the opening paragraph? When he left that day, he stopped short, before getting to the front door. Something he does when things are bothering him. "Dad," he began, "for the first time in my life I'm truly afraid for our safety and the places where we are in life." He further expanded his thoughts about national security and financial concerns. It was my turn to admit that he was not alone. We, like many, have thought of all those issues too.

As someone who was brought up in the '50s, educated in the '60s, served this nation's military in the '60s and '70s, worked in a career for nearly 36 years

and has been retired for nearly 20 years, I can honestly say that the evolution of the United States of America, in recent years, has me very concerned.

With the knowledge that it took the U.S. nearly two years, following Pearl Harbor, to gain a good "toe-hold" on the aggressions of the German and Japanese governments, the next time we won't have that luxury of time to rely on preparedness. If, as some of the generals have speculated, we'll be in a war by 2025, then those in the armed forces now will just be a buffer before the wealth of the U.S., our draft age youth, will be called upon to just put up a defense, let alone any chance of being successful this time around. It will happen quickly, and very fast. So young people, men AND women, you better follow the advice and get your lives in order. The draft will be quickly activated and, with all the D.E.I. initiatives, EVERYONE will be called upon to serve.

Why am I scared? The government's own statistics show that more than 80% of people in that age group are physically unable to qualify to serve in the armed forces. That leaves (+or-) 20% that might be able to meet the requirements. However, of that number how many would meet standards and/or security concerns? Then, and only then, will we know if the Tom Brokaw book, "The Greatest Generation," has a rival or not.

For over 75 years, I've felt very comfortable that we had a country which fostered national security for families growing up. Now, for the first time in my son's 47 years, he is scared and I cannot reassure him on this one. If you're not yet at least a little concerned, then apparently, you've mastered that great ability to "Stick your head in the sand" and ignore what is going on around you!"

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DONNA FOURAKER BELL



Mrs. Donna Fouraker Bell, 77, of Jacksonville, passed away Saturday, March 4, 2023. Mrs. Bell was born in Jacksonville to the late Clyde E. and Donna L. Suits Fouraker, Jr. and was a 1963 graduate of Baldwin High School. Mrs. Bell was a longtime hairdresser before becoming a teaching assistant at Mamie Agnes Jones Elementary School in Baldwin, where she worked until her retirement. Her heart for children was evident as she always made sure the students had lunch and proper clothing. She never hesitated to provide for them if the need presented itself.

Quite an athlete, she excelled at basketball during her time in school and into adulthood she loved playing softball, waterskiing, league bowling, and was an avid Atlanta Braves baseball fan. Mrs. Bell enjoyed gardening and kept an immaculate yard. She loved animals, including her donkeys, goats, cows, cats, dogs, pigs, and geese. She was a fan of Nicholas Sparks novels and movies and enjoyed watching them along with her favorite television shows. Her family was her world and she loved hosting family gatherings. She is greatly loved and will be forever missed.

She is survived by her husband, Wilbur C. Bell of Jacksonville; daughter Dina (Bart) Riddle of Jacksonville; grandchildren Whitney (Bradley) Jesonek, Dylan Riddle and Dawson Riddle; great-granddaughter Juliette Jesonek; brother Harry "P-nut" (Mary Jane) Fouraker of Bryceville; sisters Shirley (Doug) Ledford and Becky (Mike) Lee; and numerous extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents; and daughter Lisa Miller.

A celebration of her life will be held Friday, March 10 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Baldwin where she was a faithful member, with Pastor Chris Drum officiating. Interment will follow at Manning Cemetery, Jacksonville. The family will receive friends Thursday, March 9 from 6 – 8 p.m., also at the church.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin served the Bell family.

Please leave condolences online at www.warrenfuneralservices.com.

OBITUARIES

SHAWN ANTHONY HARRIS



Shawn Anthony Harris, 41, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, February 23, 2023, at his home in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Shawn was born in



Waycross, Georgia, but grew up in Hilliard. He was an US Army Veteran, serving in the Afghanistan War. He was an animal lover leaving behind several fur babies at home. He was an avid horror movie genre enthusiast and amateur astronomer. His quick wit and joking nature would always make you laugh. Most importantly, Shawn had a kind heart, never meeting a stranger and a friend to all that crossed his path. He is preceded in death by his mother Janice Harris; his father Jackie "Jack" Kicklighter; and his brother Elton Harris Jr.

He is survived by wife Donna Harris of Hendersonville; daughter Rachel Harris of Jacksonville; father Elton Harris of Hilliard; mother Kathy Holton of Woodbine; sister K'Trina (Tracy) Rapp of Glennville, GA; brother Jason Harris of Hilliard, FL; and several nieces, nephew, aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Saturday, March 4, at Brannen-Kennedy Funeral Home in Glennville, GA. Burial will be private.

Care and Services are entrusted to Brannen-Kennedy Funeral Home, Glennville, Georgia.

TAMMY LYNN HOWARD



Tammy Lynn Howard, 63, of Callahan, passed away February 2, 2023. She was born on December 2, 1959 in Jacksonville, to the late Ellis Howard and Vera Jean Clark Howard. Tammy was raised in Callahan and was proud to call it home. In her earlier years, she worked as a waitress and enjoyed serving and helping others. Tammy also enjoyed dancing, singing and going to the

beach. She loved her Lord and Savior and reading her Bible. Due to her health issues later in life, Tammy was unable to attend church services however, that did not stop her from worshiping and watching church sermons every Sunday morning. Tammy also loved her family and friends; even her "quiet" and "bad mouth" friends. More than anything, Tammy enjoyed spending time with her family, friends and her dog, Hoppy, who is going to miss her dearly. She is preceded in death by her parents; and brother Timothy Lamar Howard.

Tammy leaves behind her loving children Brandy Johns and Michael Johns; grandchildren James Tyler Johns-White and Dylan Kane White; nephews Timmy Howard, II and Scotty Howard.

A celebration of Tammy's life was held March 7 at The Anchor Church of God with Rev. Sarah Team officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery.

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

THOMAS W. HUTCHINSON, JR.



Thomas "Tommy" Watson Hutchinson, Jr., 75, of Callahan, passed away February 25, 2023 in Fernandina Beach.

He was born May 9, 1947 in Jacksonville, to the late Thomas Watson Hutchinson, Sr. and Della Hutchinson. At a young age, Tommy started singing and playing music with his father. They were both talented musicians who found great joy in music and loved performing. Tommy was raised in Jacksonville, attended Andrew Jackson High School, and shortly after school he joined The Saints Band as a vocalist and guitarist. He started his own band, Tom Hutchinson & Cylo, as the lead singer and guitarist. He met, what he always said, the love of his life Barbara and have enjoyed the past 56 years of marriage. Tommy was driven, hardworking and very skilled with wood. He built custom cabinets, painted cars and built outdoor furniture. Tommy loved a challenge and enjoyed welding even more. He would make anything requested for his family. He even built a lawn tractor with a front-end loader and three-point hydraulic hitch from scrap metal. Tommy was a true treasure, devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, who will be missed by all who knew him. Tommy was preceded in death by his parents.

Tommy is survived by his loving wife

of 56 years, Barbara Jean Hutchinson of Callahan; sons Kimbal (Sherry) Hutchinson and Thomas Watson Hutchinson, III, both of Callahan; grandsons Derek Hutchinson, Ryan Hutchinson and Thomas Ray Hutchinson; great-granddaughter Leia Hutchinson; and his fur baby side kick poodle Shelly.

A celebration of Tommy's life was held Thursday, March 2 at Nassau Funeral Home with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

JOHN W. MCALLISTER



John W. "Jake" McAllister, 92, of Summerfield, Florida, passed away March 3, 2023, under the care of Hospice.

He was born on January 24, 1931 in Jacksonville, to Carl and Blanche McAllister.

Jake was a veteran of the United States Army. He resided most of his life in Jacksonville while having his hand in the grocery business. Jake's grandfather owned a grocery store on Pearl Street and his father owned one in Garden City at Dunn Avenue and Lem Turner Road. Later down the road, Carl joined up with Earl Huntley running the Banner Food Store located at Lem Turner Road and Trout River Boulevard.

The time came for Jake to have the opportunities to buy out his father and then later Earl Huntley. This is when "Jake" became well known in the community. Anyone living on the northside of Jacksonville probably remembers this store its friendly atmosphere while shopping.

The produce man would select the produce after the shopper told him what they wanted, put it in a brown paper bag, set it on the scales, and write the price on the bag with the black wax pencil.

Move on back to the unique meat market where you experienced the same personal service while gazing through the glass displaying the variety of meats for the customers' choosing. The butcher knew your name, remembered your preferences and wrapped it in the brown wax coated paper. Using the old-style cash registers, the cashiers rang up your grocery items one by one. Again, it was the same friendly service you received throughout the store.

While shopping, it was nothing to see Jake roaming through the store, calling his customers by name, or hollering down to them from his open office located at the front of the store which was only accessible by a ladder. He was able to see all the action



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OBITUARIES

in the store from his perch.

In 1995, Jake and his wife, Martha, moved to Summerfield, Florida, so they could enjoy their retirement years together. Jake was an avid golfer. Martha became one herself and ended up staying in the golfing world longer than Jake. He picked up biking and loved his biking buddies. Jake was the "leader" of the group who chose where their weekly ride would take them and which restaurant would be honored with their presence. Jake was predeceased by his parents; a son Barry; and a sister Rosalie West.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 29 years, Martha; a daughter Sheila McAllister; son Kevin (Theresa) McAllister; stepdaughter Debbie (Lee) Walsh; stepson Marshall (Dan) Bowden; sister Carolee Geiger; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 11 at 11 a.m. at Garden City Methodist Church in Jacksonville.

LARRY CHARLES TYLER, JR.



Larry Charles "The Goat" Tyler, Jr., 56, of Callahan, passed away on February 24, 2023 at his home. He was born June 26, 1966 in Pavo, Georgia to the late Larry Tyler, Sr. and Betty Ann Johnson Tyler. Larry has been a resident of Callahan for the past 19 years. He was raised in Georgia and earned his undergraduate degree from Savannah State University and later his Master's Degree from Webster University. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps where he met his beautiful wife, Talisia Brown. They were happily married on July 17, 1999 and enjoyed 23 years of amazing, blessed marriage. Larry was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather who loved his family dearly. After his time in the military, he served in the Army National Guard and Reserves and started a successful career as an Electrician. He had an entrepreneurial spirit and enjoyed many years being self-employed. Larry was known for being a 'Trekkie' who had a huge love for Star Trek. He was an avid Alabama Crimson Tide and San Francisco 49er's fan, loved comedy and enjoyed bringing laughter and smiles through his gift of being a comedian. Larry liked the television show Sanford and Sons, and enjoyed grilling. He was most passionate about his family and enjoyed spending precious time with them. Larry was such a joy to be around and his presence will be truly missed. He was preceded in death by his parents Larry Tyler, Sr. and Betty Ann Johnson Tyler.

Tyler is survived by his loving wife, Talisia Brown Tyler; children April Tyler, Larry (Melissa) Tyler, III, Brittany Robinson and Brandon Tyler; grandchildren Kemarion, Aubrey, Zyron, Marley, Ambriael, Landry, Kaveon, Avery, Braylon, Brayden and Braelyn; siblings Ann (Eugene) Mobley, Fulton (Beverly) King, Deloris (June) Ivey, Precious (Patrick) Sharpe, Brinda (Vernon) Washington, Evans Capers, Trimane (Tiffany) Cooper and Mia (Derrick) Mervin; and mother-in-law Ruth Capers.

Pallbearers were Michael Pickard, Jonathan McClain, Alonzo Meeke, Wilbur Richburg, Derrick Locklear and Jay Adams.

A celebration of Larry's life was held Wednesday, March 8 at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Pastor Corey L. King officiating and military honors rendered. The family received friends Tuesday, March 7 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

JANINE ANN ORENDER



Janine Ann Orender, 62, of Hilliard, went home to be with her Lord on March 1, 2023. She was born August 11, 1960, in Jacksonville, to the Victor Brand, Sr. and Maryann Davis Brand. Janine worked for the Town of Hilliard as the Town Manager for several years. She was faithful in her beliefs and loved worshipping her Lord and Savior. Janine enjoyed going to the beach, cooking for her family, eating candy, singing and listening to music. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who will be dearly missed. Janine is preceded in death by her parents; and son Chase Burnette.

Janine leaves behind her loving husband of 31 years, Michael Orender; children Charles (Ameila) Kilpatrick and Tara (Ori) Bilansky; daughter-in-law Shelly Wilkerson; brother Victor (Valerie) Brand; sister Vanessa (Joey) Browning; grandchildren Abel Kilpatrick, Maayan Bilansky, Yali Bilansky, Ruth Bilansky, Annalycce Burnette and Isaac Burnette; special niece Falecity Gaskins Haddock; and several other nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held Friday, March 10 at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor David Westmoreland officiating.

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

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HMSHS Students Attend Construction Career Days



Last Thursday, Hilliard Middle-Senior High School students in the Agriculture and Technical classes attended the Construction Career Days held at the Jacksonville Equestrian Center. The event was open to local high school students in the area. The students enjoyed a full day of hands-on working with all different kinds of equipment and learning what each piece of equipment does.

As more people visit or relocate to the state of Florida, the need for qualified construction workers grows. Everything from roadways to homes and shopping centers are necessary to support the increasing population. The construction of each requires skilled workers, yet the numbers of those

entering the field is dwindling.

In order to increase the number of workers in the construction industry, transportation industry officials began an educational outreach program for high school students in 1999. The program is designed to introduce school students to the wide range of career opportunities available to them in the construction industry in a hands-on environment.

Partner agencies and organizations responsible for the event include the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Transportation Builders Association, the Suncoast Utility Contractors Association and the Federal Highway Administration.



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