VOLUME XX ISSUE 36

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

"Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, AND THEY WILL LEARN EVEN MORE." - PROVERBS 9:9

Callahan Elementary Safety Patrol Visits NCSO



The Nassau County Sheriff's Office had the pleasure of hosting the 2nd Grade Safety Patrol group from Callahan Elementary School. The students got an inside look at the various units that keep our community safe, including the motor and traffic unit, ag-marine unit, and K9 unit. They were excited to meet our furry friends, bloodhound, Roxie and emotional therapy dog, Tank. Sheriff Leeper took the time to meet with the students and

presented them with challenge coins as a token of appreciation for their dedication to safety at their schools.

The students also had the opportunity to tour our 911 dispatch center and meet the voices behind the phone, learning firsthand about the critical role they play in emergency response. Thank you, Callahan Elementary School students and staff, for visiting NCSO and being part of our mission to keep Nassau County safe!









Hilliard Town Park Sidewalks Approved to be Widened

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of April. The first order of business was the Public Hearing and Second and Final Reading on Ordinance 2024-01 which concerns Block 159 Vacating Alley. The ordinance reads: an Ordinance relating to Public Rightof-Way or Alley; making findings, Vacating Public Right-of-Way or alley within or surrounded by Block 159; Plat of the West Portion of Hilliard; authorizing recording of a certified copy of this ordinance. Applicant Sylvester V. Helhoski, Sr. The council adopted the ordinance.

The next item was a proclamation read by Mayor John Beasley. The proclamation included: Whereas, water is a basic and essential need of

every living creature; and the Town of Hilliard has designated April, typically a dry month, as Water Conservation Month, to educate citizens about how they can help save Florida's precious water resources; every business, industry, school and citizen can make a difference when it comes to conserving water; hereby proclaim the month of April as Water Conservation Month in the Town of Hilliard.

The following agenda item was the approval of Resolution 2024-06 which concerned accepting a Florida Department of Transportation Grant of ferof a Public Transportation Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement in the amount of \$15,000, to the Environmental Assessment of the North & South property acquisitions at the Hilliard Airpark.

The next item was also approved by the council. Resolution 2024-07, which concerns accepting a Florida Department of Transportation Grant offer of a Public Transportation grant agreement and authorizing and directing the Hilliard Town Council to accept such agreement in the amount of \$300,000, for Obstruction Removal on the ends of the north & south runways at the Hilliard Airpark.

The next three items were from Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg. In first item, Whittenburg advised the council concerning and agreement with TopShelf Baseball Academy LLC and the Town of Hilliard for the use of the baseball grounds at Oxford Park. "The group (TopShelf) has agreed to maintain the grounds at the park (clay and mow the grass) while

they use the facility," said Whittenburg. "They have already bought bases for the field and it really looks nice down there. This will not interfere with any town activities we might have planned. They understand Town events come before them and are okay." The council approved the request to use the facility contingent on TopShelf providing insurance coverage for their players.

The second item concerned the Town Hall Fence installation around the retention pond. Whittenburg advised the council that the work would be completed by Wright Fence Company, who has done work for the town before, at a cost of \$5,975. This would be paid for using a portion of the \$50,000 Municipal Grant funds for the Board of County Commissioners. The council See 'Hilliard Town' on page 3

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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.

Thank You!

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to send a 'Thank You' to Coach Randy Smith for being so kind. My son passed away in January 2000...24 years ago. My son Donnie, played basketball at Callahan Middle School under the direction of Coach Smith. They had a very strong bond. I visit Pigeon Creek Cemetery from time to time to freshen the flowers on Donnie's grave and other family members and I have found a basketball on Donnie's grave signed by Coach Smith. I just wanted to thank him for continuing to remember Donnie and their special relationship.

Christine Crews

In Response

Roger,

What am I gonna do with you? Your readers deserve more, and better, than your opinion. Perhaps you fell asleep in school when you were taught about economics. In Ancient Greece, there was trade with the Minoans, Egypt and Crete. Then (drum roll, please), we have the Columbian Exchange. This is the trade structure that existed right after

Europeans landed in the New World. Items the Europeans sent to the New World include apples, onions, coffee, wheat and rice. Do you really want to give up those things just because they are NOT native to North and South America?

Along those same lines, please go through your house, and make a great big pile of all the things that were made outside the US. Check the labels on all of your groceries. Then, pile on all the clothes that were made abroad. Then, pile on all the electronics and appliances made outside the US. Finally, check where your car was made. Japan? Italy? Germany? Also, remember that American auto manufacturers use parts made outside the US. BTW, these are FACTS, not 'opinions'.

After you do that, you will easily see that YOU, and everyone you know, DESPERATELY want that bridge rebuilt, and are willing to pay for the repairs. Imagine what life would be like without the products brought in through the Port of Baltimore. Think about all the AMERICAN jobs that would be lost.

So, please educate yourself, and then rewrite your article.

> Yours, Shari Gulley

EVENTS AROUND TO

The Sons of Confederate Veterans monthly meeting will be held Monday, April 15 at 7 p.m. at the Pig Barbeque restaurant in Callahan. If you are interested in the history 1851-1865, please plan to attend.

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville, monthly Gospel Sing will be held Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. featuring Isaiah 61 and the Gospel Sounds. Refreshments will follow.

In the Kitchen...

1 green bell pepper, seeded & chopped 1 red bell pepper, seeded & chopped 1 yellow bell pepper, seeded & chopped 1 medium cucumber, seeded & chopped

Summer Pepper Salad

¹/₄ cup chopped fresh parsley 8 ounces crumbled feta cheese 1 tablespoon olive oil

In a large bowl, mix the green bell pepper, red bell pepper, yellow bell pepper, cucumber, parsley, feta cheese, and olive oil. Chill at least 30 minutes in the refrigerator before serving.



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Dawn West Publisher Roger WestOwner/Reporter Jessie Pickett.....Graphic Designer

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Hilliard Town

approved Wright Fence Company.

The third item concerned widening the Town Hall Park sidewalk, with work provided by Jordan Family Construction, LLC in the amount of \$16,000, also using a portion of the \$50,000 Municipal Grant funds. Jordan Construction also did the previous work at the park. The council approved Jordan Construction.

The next item was the approval of the payable for Project: IT Town Hall Refresh in the amount of \$43,624.55, which was a capital funded project.

The next item was the approval of the payable to Franklin Equipment

Continued from page 1

Sales for Project: Mower in the amount of \$9,463.30, which was a capital funded project.

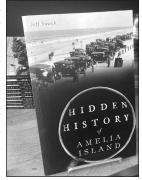
The final item was the approval of a pay request No. 1 to T B Landmark Construction, Inc. for project: Oxford Street Force Main Rerouting in the amount of \$161,512.44; project lump sum contract: \$562,270.00. Public Works Director Joel Hall P.E. advised the council that the performance of the company is amazing. The project is going very well and I am very pleased. The next meeting of the council will be held Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m.

Hilliard Author Publishes Book

On April 1, Arcadia Publishing released *The* Hidden History of Amelia Island by Hilliard resident Jeff Suwak. It's available in stores now. The book was exhaustively researched, but Suwak also wanted to put a literary spin on the story and bring the characters and the place to life. His goal was

to write a nonfictional Cannery Row (John Steinbeck), which is one of his favorite books. "In Cannery Row," said Suwak, "Steinbeck tells an inspiring story full of fascinating, seemingly simple yet deceptively deep characters living together in a small town. It's a celebration of human existence. That's how I wanted The Hidden History of Amelia Island to be, while sticking true to the facts."

Suwak, a professional editor,



freelance writer hypnotist, moved to Hilliard about two years ago. He instantly fell in love with the landscape, the history, and the people. "Talking to people here," continued Suwak, "I get the feeling that many don't understand how special this region is. The friendliness, warmth, and

humility that I've found here contrasts sharply with what I experienced on the west coast. I'm grateful to have found this place."

Suwak's next project is a thriller set in Hilliard. A volunteer with the Hilliard Action Committee, he opens the novel at the town's annual cleanup. Suwak dedicated The Hidden History of Amelia Island book to his mother, Alice Virginia Suwak, who passed away during the writing of the work.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Charlie Kirk is the Founder and Executive Director of Turning Point USA, a national student movement dedicated to identifying, organizing, and empowering young people to promote the principles of free markets and limited government. He was asked a question by Pastor John Randall and his answer will certainly cause a stir, but it should give pause and make us all reflect on his answer. I agree with him. He was asked, "Can you vote Democrat and still claim to be a Christian and live according to Biblical values?" He answered, "You cannot be a true born again Christian and vote Democrat. They are celebratory of millions of abortions a year; they believe that gender is infinite, you can change your gender and in fact they believe we should teach your children that and that they can get irreversible damage done to them by pharmacological agents and that the transgender craze, if you oppose, you're a hater and so some people say, but Charlie, what do the Democrats want? They want full and complete destruction of the United States of America. They do not want a better country. They do not want you to live in a better tomorrow. They want to overwhelm the system and radically transform it as Barack Obama said as one of the last things he said before he got elected president, 'We are only a few days away from fundamentally transforming this country.' Let me ask you a question, do you fundamentally

transform that which you love? You conserve that which you love. That is why we call ourselves conservatives. Because we have gratitude and love for this country, that we did not build. but we inherited, thanks to the grace and glory of God. So, to answer your question, no, if you vote Democrat as a Christian, I think you can no longer call yourself a Christian. You have to call yourself something else."

So, how is that 'Green New Deal' working out? Almost daily it seems to be faltering. You may wonder why? Well mainly because it is not even slightly feasible, actually it is downright stupid. The woke-liberals can't seem to reason with common sense. Hertz Rental Car Company had planned on making 25% of its fleet electric by the end of this year. However, plans have now drastically changed. Hertz recently announced that it is selling 20,000 EVs, about one-third of the company's electric vehicle fleet. According to a report from Bloomberg. Hertz has decided to cut back on EV rental cars because of high repair costs and weak demand from its customers. Hertz also reports EV's brings higher depreciation than they expected and the repair costs are spiraling out of control. In total, the company said it expected to lose over \$245 million on the agreements. They will instead opt for gas-powered vehicles once again. It's a shame stupid costs so much money!

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

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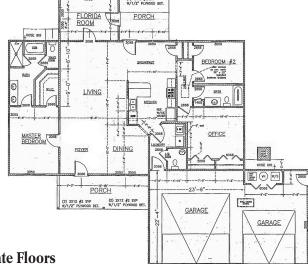
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Rejected by Men, Accepted by God

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



To be rejected means to be despised, disapprove, or refuse. It's the opposite of accepted, to be included. Have you ever felt like you've been denied, trying your best to do everything right, and yet you didn't get the job, or the loan you were excited about didn't come through? Or make your local baseball, basketball, etc. team, whatever your favorite sport. Maybe it's even worse being rejected by your mother or your father. Perhaps you have prayed and felt like your prayers were being rejected by God.

There are passages in the Bible that clearly show that God sent his prophets and priests to direct Israel in the way they should live. They rejected the very message that God was sending to them his way he wanted them to worship. Rejection is a part of life; we must understand how to deal with it. Isaiah 53:3, "He is despised and rejected of men; A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief."

And we hid as it were our faces from him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not. 1 Peter 2:4-5, "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Even though Peter denied Jesus three times after Jesus was captured and delivered over to sinful men, what a blessing it is for us today as we read first Peter 2. God shares those powerful words to convey what we should do when men reject us. It shows us that we have hope and that we also are a part of that living stone, that cornerstone, which is God. He's the builder and Maker of our soul. Jesus was treated as if he was worthless, yet he became the chief cornerstone of our faith.

Rejection is hard to deal with. It can cause significant pain in our lives, but the very thing that men are rejecting us from does not necessarily disqualify us from being accepted by God. One of the greatest stories, that I like, in the word of God is King David, who was the least of them to be chosen out of all his brothers, but in God's sight, he was the first choice and only choice. Our natural intellect can't understand how God would use someone like David to be king over Israel but that's just like God. How God looks on the heart of man and man looks on the outward God knowing the intent of our heart man only knows our actions. Brothers and sisters, people may disregard you. They even may overlook you or simply ignore you or look down on you, but be encouraged today you are accepted by God. You're precious in God sight. He has chosen you as a living stone in his kingdom.

When Jesus walked this earth, he walked under the power and the authority of God. He was not being the peoples first choice, but yet he overcame that, and he was obedient until the end. We may have a similar journey as Jesus, but I promise you, brothers and sisters, you're very significant and God is working it out for your good. He's going to get the glory and the honor from our lives. Don't quit! Continue to walk by faith and not by sight, stay on the battlefield for your Lord and your God. Brothers and sisters be content with God's love for us as his love is endless.

It's imperative that you don't allow someone else's truth frame the way you think about yourself when you're rejected by others. Remember what God says about you: You are loved and full of worth. You're his child you have the Holy Spirit that's a part of your DNA. When we pray, God hears us. We want the will of God to be done in our life. Jesus was despised and rejected. If God can use someone like Peter to build his church, upon being that sure foundation, it shows that God can use us, even when we have been rejected by men. The Father allowed David to be king, and after David, his seed became king. We have the most remarkable example, King Jesus. I encourage you to believe God's report that he loves you unconditionally and he has chosen you to be a part of his kingdom.

Grace and peace for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

R. Niel Hampton, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament Set

The 18th Annual R. Niel Hampton, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, April 27 at Laurel Island Links in Kingsland, Georgia. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.; Shotgun start at 10 a.m. The annual golf tournament is held as a fundraiser for the R. Niel

Hampton, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year, students that are studying to go in to the ministry (preaching, music, missions, etc.) or that plan to attend a Christian college, can apply for the scholarship. Many local and distant ministers and students

have benefited from the scholarship. To apply, visit: www.riverroadbaptist.org and click on the More tab to find out more.

For those of you wishing to get involved by playing in the tournament or sponsoring, there is still time. Hole Sponsors are \$150; Players \$100; Major

Sponsor \$450 (includes 4 players tickets and more); and Gold Sponsor \$800 (which also includes 4 players tickets and more). For more information or to play, please contact Sandy Hampton at 904-307-9212 or Hal McIntosh at 904-742-4198.

Clerk Announces Retirement

After decades of public service, Clerk John A. Crawford has announced his retirement, effective at the end of this current term. Clerk Crawford has

served as the Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller for 5 consecutive terms beginning in January of 2005. He also served our county as a County Commissioner from 1990-1998. Clerk Crawford has been a tireless advocate for innovation, transparency, and service to the citizens of Nassau County and the state of Florida.

Clerk Crawford would like the citizens of Nassau County to know how profoundly honored and privileged he feels to have been able to serve you for all of these years.

As he will not be seeking reelection

November, Clerk Crawford is endorsing his current Chief of Operations, Mitchell Keiter, as Nassau County's next Clerk of the Circuit Court

> and Comptroller. Mr. Keiter has been with the Clerk's office almost as long as Clerk Crawford, coming onboard in September of 2005. Prior to becoming the Chief of Operations in 2017, Mr. Keiter served as Chief Deputy of Compliance and Accountability, and Chief Deputy Information

Technologies. His years of experience in this office would prove to be invaluable as the incoming Clerk. Clerk Crawford encourages the citizens of Nassau County to support Mr. Keiter as he runs for this elected office in November.



LIVE CONCERT

at Bryceville First Baptist Church Join us for a Night of Music and Fellowship with

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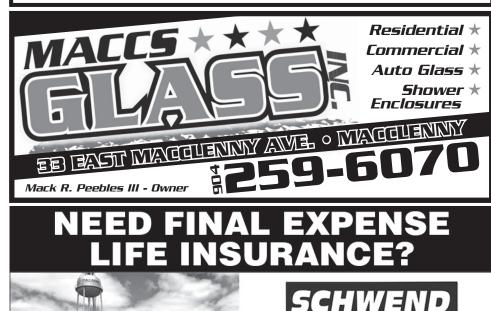
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Nassau County Friends of NRA **Event Coming**



The Nassau County Friends of NRA 3rd Annual Event will be held Friday. April 26 at Camp Sorenson in Hilliard. The doors open at 6 p.m. We are excited to be holding our third event in the beautiful facility at Camp Sorenson!

Just like last year, we are also hosting a pre-event raffle. The cost per ticket is \$20 and we are only selling 100 tickets. The winner will receive a Henry Golden Boy 22 S/L/LR. Tickets are available at the Westside Journal office in Callahan. The winner will be drawn the night of our event!

What is the Friends of NRA? It is a program of the NRA Foundation. We are a non-political 501 charity. We raise funds by hosting these events. The monies collected are distributed to LOCAL organizations through a grant process. Friends of NRA supports public safety, ranges and improvements, shooting sports and education. You can find out more by visiting the website at: www.friendsofnra.com/grants.

Buy a table, get a gun! There are different levels of tables available for the night of the event. Each table seats 8 people. The tables are: Liberty (\$1,000), Patriot (\$1,500), Table of the Year (\$2,024) and Freedom Table (\$5,000). The more expensive the table, the higher the value of the gun you will

There will have 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 at this game, you can choose which gun you want from the selection posted. There are handguns, rifles and shot guns. The choice will be yours if you are a lucky winner! There will also be raffle tickets available for sale the night of the event. All raffle prizes are guns!

The ladies table will have items especially for the lady of the house as well as a lady's handgun as the main prize. You can purchase a rose for her and you will receive a ticket to win one of the prizes on the table. The grand prize will be a firearm just for her.

Attendees enjoy dinner and lots of chances to win guns! The evening concludes with a live auction and winners are chosen from the games, raffles, and silent auction. These events are volunteer-run and managed at the local level with NRA support staff oversight.

For any questions or to purchase a table for the event, call or text Karen at 904-903-9552; or email: ncfnra01@ gmail.com.



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morning cup of coffee, a walk-in shower, and a huge stand-alone tub, faux electric fireplace and much more. This builder is one of the best in the area and once you see this home, you'll see the attention to detail and the quality of construction. Schedule your showing today. This is not a cookie cutter home!

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Are you looking for a place to escape to or maybe generate some passive income? Located high on the banks of the St. Marys river, this spacious, 3-story home has been well cared for. Perfect for a large family or it could be used for an AIR B&B! You can fish the floating docks, swim or ski in the river, or just enjoy the beauty of nature. New paint, freshly serviced A/C, new facia outside, sliding glass doors and garage door recently

replaced. With the enjoyable view and serenity, the possibilities are endless. MLS #106538

34019 AMERICA LANE • CALLAHAN



This all brick home features a metal roof, tile floors throughout the home, spacious bedrooms with large closets and a functioning fireplace for those cool winter nights. The back porch is screened in so you can enjoy that morning or evening coffee. You'll enjoy country life sitting on 2.02 acres (zoned Open Rural) with a partially fenced back yard. Located just outside of Callahan off US 301,

you'll find this location close enough to conveniences like shopping and schools. MLS #106258



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Top Weightlifters at HHS



Congratulations to Colton Conner and Ryland Hall, seniors at Hilliard High School, who were both District winners. Colton won the Traditional in the 139 lb. Class; and Ryland won the Traditional in the Unlimited Class; Also, Cannon Padgett won 3rd Place in the 129 lb. Class; and Hunter Andrews won 2nd Place in the 129 lb. Class.

CIS Speech Contest Winners



Callahan Intermediate School hosted the annual 4H Public Speaking Contest sponsored by FPL on Wednesday, April 3. Students from fourth and fifth grade competed in their class competitions during March. The first-place winner from each class took part in the school competition. The fourth-grade winner was Joseph Long. The fifth-grade winner was Alita Smith. These two students will represent Callahan Intermediate School at the county contest on April 19.

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WNHS Top Weightlifters



West Nassau High School weightlifters recently competed in Districts and did very well. Following are the titles and names of the winners: District Champions: Caleb Keeton, Kenny Valasqez, Connor Scaff, Cason Gregory and Seth Pettyjohn. 2nd Place winners: Brandon Miller, Kaleb Studt, Will Davis, Garrett Rica and Tucker Shuler. 3rd Place winners: Sean Thigpen and Skylar Freeman. 4th Place winners: Elijah Galtieri, Tilman Neeley, Emmanuel Davis, Grady Stevens, Landon Scaff and Gabe Drake.

HMSHS Looking for Players for the Alumni Flag Football Game



The Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Flashes football program would like to invite all Alumni back to participate in our Alumni Flag Football Game. The game will be held Friday, May 10 at halftime of the Spring Sneak Peek Scrimmage at Paul Whittenburg Field. Varsity will play the first quarter; JV the second quarter; and the Alumni Flag Football Game at Halftime. The varsity will take the field at 5:30 p.m. with the Alumni Game starting around 6:30 p.m. Come showcase your skills one more time under the lights! Contact Coach Yancey at: yanceyma@nassau.k12.fl.us if you plan to play!



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Bush Hogging

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Reclaim Overgrown Property

NCSD Celebrates Seven Schools of Excellence

At their March 27, 2024 meeting, The State Board of Education approved Florida's Schools of Excellence. The Nassau County School District proud to announce that seven schools have been named Florida Department of Education Schools Excellence

2022-2023 school vear. The seven schools are Bryceville Elementary Callahan Intermediate School, Callahan Middle School, Emma Love Hardee Elementary School, Fernandina Beach High School, Hilliard Elementary School and Wildlight Elementary School. Of these seven schools, School. Bryceville Elementary Callahan Intermediate School, Emma Love Hardee Elementary School, Hilliard Elementary School and Fernandina Beach High School have been designated Schools of Excellence for six consecutive years. Wildlight Elementary School has been a School of Excellence for three straight years; and Callahan Middle School is recognized for the first time.



According section 1003.631(1) (a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), a school can be designated as a School of Excellence if the percentage school's of possible points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80th percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade groupings (elementary, middle, high

and combination) for at least two of the last three school years. This program was created by the Florida Legislature in 2017. Schools that initially qualify for the designation retain their designation as a School of Excellence for up to three years, at the end of which they may renew the designation. "This is a significant accomplishment for our school district, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers and administrators," said Dr. Kathy Knight Burns, Superintendent of Nassau County School District. "Our district is committed to providing high-quality education to our students, and we will continue to work hard to maintain and expand this designation in the future."

Love Named Winner of Superstar Showcase



Ty Love, 20, of Callahan, was recently declared the winner of the 2024 Orange Blossom Opry Superstar Showcase. Ty entered and performed in the Orange Blossom Opry Superstar Showcase which was a 12-week contest that began with 90 contestants. The competition was held in Weirsdale, Florida (just outside of Ocala) at the Orange Blossom Opry. As the winner of the showcase, Ty received a beautiful crystal microphone trophy, and a recording session with Bobby Randall, who is a founding member of Sawyer Brown and Confederate

Railroad accompanied by the Orange Blossom Opry Band and Nathan Smith. Ty also gets to open up for a show at the Orange Blossom Opry in the future.

Ty began singing and playing guitar at the age of 15, at his church, Dinsmore Baptist, with his sister Haley McCue. Ty's proud parents are Kristen and Joey Love of Callahan.



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TOWN OF CALLAHAN, FL 2024 ELECTION

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904-942-8106

Qualifying Period Begins: August 2, 2024 at 8 a.m.
Qualifying Period Ends: August 23, 2024 at 3 p.m.
Candidate Petitions for Verification: July 12, 2024 at 3 p.m.
Required Number of Valid Petition Signatures Needed: 20

SEATS UP FOR ELECTION 2024: FIRE COMMISSIONER WATER WASTEWATER COMMISSIONER TOWN ZONING DEPARTMENT

QUESTIONS: Please contact Callahan Town Clerk Shawna Gugliuzza at clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov.

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YARD SALES

KINGS FERRY COMMUNITY YARD SALE! Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Northeast of Hilliard off CR 108: Kings Ferry Rd., Haddock Rd., Middle Rd., Lessie Rd., etc.

FRIDAY, 8 a.m. till 5 p.m.; SATURDAY, 8 a.m. till 2 p.m.; 37193 Southern Glen Way, off Pine St., Hilliard. For all you parents STAND UP and cheer, another great Yard Sale is finally here. We have the lowest prices you can ask around, spreading enormous savings all over town. So, bring your neighbor, sister, and your mother, too, this super-hot sale is here for

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE! Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 34440 Old Baldwin Road, Callahan. Rae Dunn, Stampin VP supplies, total Tiffany collection, home and seasonal décor, dishes, tools, etc.! Something for everyone!

FRIDAY, April 19 & SATURDAY, April 20, 8 a.m. -2 p.m., 10815 Ford Road, Bryceville. Smoker grill, tools, Ninja Foodi XL Pro Air Oven, Baker's rack with wine bottle holders, hunting items and many more household items.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., 33121 Prairie Park Place, Flora Parke, Yulee. Riding lawnmower, tools, stereo equipment, household items, fishing items, some clothes, framed pictures & lots of this & that!

SATURDAY, April 13, 28170 Trinity Lane, Hilliard. Kid's toys, books, Christmas décor & village, vacuum cleaner and much more!

Our Lady of Consolation, 541668 US Hwy 1, Callahan, ANNUAL SPRING YARD SALE, Saturday, April 20 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$10 Bag Specials Saturday. Early birds can visit Friday, April 19 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 41824

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Westside Senior Life Center Afternoon Activities

Join us for our afternoon activity program at Nassau County Council on Aging's Westside Senior Life Center, 37002 Ingham Rd, Hilliard. All programs are free of charge. Questions? Contact Missy Snead, Activities Coordinator, 904-675-9833 or msnead@nassaucountycoa.org.

Friday, April 12 • 2 - 3 p.m. • Q&A with NCCOA Staff
Monday, Apr 15 • 2 - 4 p.m. • Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc.
Tuesday, April 16 • 1 - 3 p.m. • Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"
Wednesday, April 17 • 2 - 3 p.m. • YouTube Tai Chi

Thursday, April 18 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. • Line Dancing with Tonya Friday, April 19 • 2 - 3:30 p.m. • Popcorn and a Movie, "Enchanted" Monday, April 22 • 2 - 4 p.m. • Memory Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4 Tuesday, April 23 • 1 - 3 p.m. • Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers" Wednesday, April 24 • 2 - 3 p.m. • YouTube Crafts

Thursday, April 25 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. • Line Dancing with Tonya Friday, April 26 • 2 - 3 p.m. • Q&A with the VFW

Monday, Apr 29 • 2 - 4 p.m. • Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. Tuesday, Apr 30 • 1 - 3 p.m. • Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"

SCV at the Clay County Fair

This half scale model of the Confederate Submarine H.L. HUNLEY, has caught the attention of many attending the Clay County Fair. Members of Kirby-Smith Camp 1209, Sons of Confederate Veterans, explain the history of the event that occurred in 1864 when the HUNLEY became the first submarine to



successfully sink an enemy warship, the USS HOUSATONIC. For more information on the SCV go to www.scv-kirby-smith.org.

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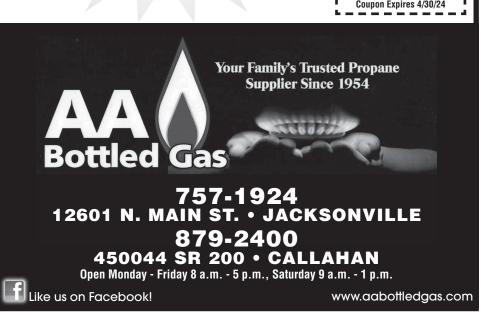
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JASON LLOYD COOPER



Jason Lloyd Cooper, 45, passed away peacefully Saturday, April 6, 2024 at UF Health Jacksonville, surrounded by his family.

Jason was born in Fernandina Beach and was the son of Darlene Herrington Fletcher and the late J. H. "Pete" Cooper. He was a 1996 graduate of Fernandina Beach High School. Shortly after high school, he began a career which spanned most of his working life with the Ritz Carlton – Marriot Corporation. Over the years he has worked in several locations across the country. Most of Jason's life was governed by his own ideas, he always wanted to be the best at everything he did.

He was an avid sports fan, from professional and college sports, to his nieces' softball games. In addition to enjoying sports, he thoroughly loved to cook. Jason had an infectious personality and seemed to steal a bit of everyone's heart he met. He was mischievous and always enjoyed getting the best of someone. He will always be remembered for his special brand of smile. That smile could melt hearts and it did. In addition to his father, Jason was predeceased by a brother Theron Cooper; grandfather Robert Herrington; and aunt Diana Herrington Starratt.

He leaves behind his mother Darlene Fletcher of Callahan; brothers Tracey (Sandy) Cooper, Todd (Torrey) Cooper, Tim (Jean) Cooper and Clay (Kayli) Fletcher, all of Yulee; his maternal grandmother Wilma Herrington; maternal grandmother Lisa Cooper; aunt Linda Herrington; uncle Wayne (Kay) Herrington; as well as several nieces and nephews.

A service to remember Jason's life will be held Friday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Burgess Chapel of Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors. The family will receive friends beginning at 4:30 p.m.

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

DBITUARIES

AUDREY HURST CROWE



Audrey Hurst Crowe, 79, of Callahan, passed away April 3, 2024, after a long 15year battle with Parkinson's disease, followed by a brave

effort to recover from her recent stroke in January 2024. She was born April 22, 1944, in Thomasville, Georgia. Audrey married Curtis Crowe on May 7, 1971. They were happily married for almost 53 years. Audrey was a homemaker, devoted wife, and loving mother, who was, the heart of her family. She was a strong woman, who kept her home together, while Curt was away on many Navy deployments. They enjoyed traveling and camping throughout the United States. Audrey enjoyed gardening, driving her little red golf cart, and witty banter with family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents Carroll Aubrey Hurst and Florrie Ester Crawford Hurst Sheffield; and brother Billy Steve Hurst.

Audrey is survived by her loving husband, Curt Crowe; children Angela Stores of Jacksonville, Anita Bozeman of Elkton, FL, Curt (Nicole) Herndon of Keystone Heights and Cheri (Paul) Potrok of Callahan; 12 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 11 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A graveside service for Audrey will be held Friday, April 12 at 10 a.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery. Guests should arrive by 9:45 a.m. and proceed to Lane 3 for procession.

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

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

BEVERLY ANN ECKES



Beverly Ann Eckes, 93, of Callahan, passed away peacefully April 3, 2024. She was born February 23, 1931 in Hawley, Pennsylvania, to the

late George Conrad Miller and Anna Marie Oster Miller. Beverly and the love of her life, Peter, wed on July 14, 1951. In the early 1980's, they were relocated to Florida due to Peter's job. Beverly was an active member of Spirit of Life Lutheran Church. She enjoyed crafts and playing cards with the ladies from church but more than anything, Beverly enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was a loving mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother, that will be dearly missed. Beverly was preceded in death by her parents; husband Peter James Eckes; son Bruce Russel Eckes; brother George Miller, Jr.; sisters Hedy Stewart, Millie Compton and Charlotte Vacca; and greatgrandson Austin James Braun.

Beverly leaves behind her loving daughters, Cathy (Joe) Lynn Larsen and Diane (Richard) Eckes Crawley; grandchildren Brandie (Reid) Braun, Candice (Matt) Young and Theresa (Jake) Bolden; great-grandchildren Gavin Young, Mary Young, Erin Bolden, James Bolden and Bennett Bolden.

A celebration of life service for Beverly will be held at a later date at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church.

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

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

MARTHA MOORE HUGO



Martha "Marty" Moore Hugo passed away peacefully March 16, 2024 in Jacksonville. She was born September 26, 1939

in Jacksonville, the daughter of the late Edmond and Stella Moore. She grew up in Fernandina Beach and was a 1957 graduate of Fernandina Beach High School. She attended college at Tift College in Georgia and later Massey Business School in Jacksonville.

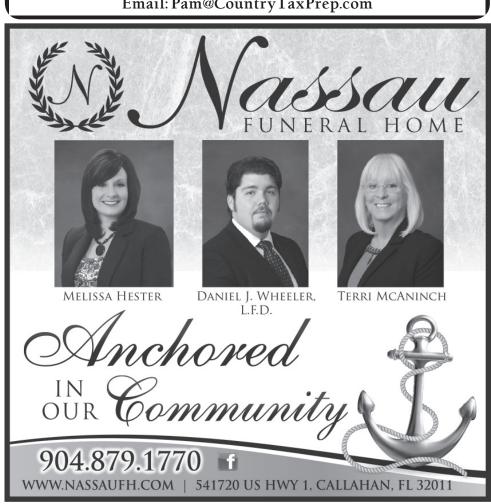
Marty met the love of her life, Ted and they married on May 18, 1960. Marty was a devout Catholic and a long-time member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Jacksonville. She worked many hours around the church and school over the years. At St. Patrick's, she volunteered on many committees, including altar guild, lector and eucharistic minister, Bingo, Bazaar and was always there to offer her time, talent and treasure. Her faith is what always carried her and prayed the Rosary three times daily.

Marty loved to taste and eat all types of food as well as create and cook her own great recipes. Her pulled pork and homemade BBQ sauce were amazing. She was always looking for new recipes to try or share with others after she tried it. Marty was an avid fan of The Young & The Restless for the full 50 years it aired. She was a jokester and would try to scare you any chance she had then walk away laughing. She enjoyed gardening and being outdoors. Marty also enjoyed traveling, especially to the mountains and was open to adventures with her family and friends to find the next restaurant. She was a Cat Mom to countless kittens and had several Siamese cats over the years, Zen, Saki, Sushi, Sierra and Misty. She was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother "Grammy." She was preceded in death by her husband

She is survived by her son David (Lisa)

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OBITUARIES

Hugo; daughter Laura (Moe) Steedley; four grandchildren that she loved dearly, Lindsay & Shelby Hugo and Cole & Claire Steedley; sister Chmone (Steve) Ashley; brother Danny (Monica) Moore; and many extended family members and very close friends

Rosary Service will be held Saturday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. and the funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 601 Airport Center Drive East, Jacksonville, with Father Christopher Ligouri officiating.

Peeples Family Funeral Home is serving the Hugo Family.

JESSICA LYNN POLITANO



Jessica Lynn Politano, 35, of Jacksonville, unexpectedly passed away Saturday, April 6, 2024. She was born December 6, 1988.

She is survived by her three children; her mother Gina Politano; her father Billy Jo Watson; her maternal grandmother Ruth Politano; brothers Nick Shaheen and Anthony Politano; and many extended family members and friends, all of who loved her and will miss her very much.

WILMA JEAN WHITTEMORE



Wilma Jean Levy Whittemore passed away January 18, 2024.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 13 at 11 a.m. at Callahan Methodist Church.

ALBERT WILKES



Albert Wilkes, 79, of Callahan, passed away peacefully April 1, 2024, at Community Hospice George and Margaret Morris Center

for Caring in Jacksonville. He was born April 27, 1944, in Geneva, Alabama to the

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late George Clifton Wilkes and May Belle Kirkland Wilkes. Albert was a member of the Church of Hope in Jacksonville, where he loved attending services and worshiping his Lord and Savior. Albert's career for the majority of his life was in the trucking industry. He spent many, many of days on the road. Albert had a fun, outgoing personality and was the life of the party. He loved to eat and throwing something good to eat on the grill for him and his family was something Albert enjoyed. Albert also enjoyed vacationing, riding 4-wheelers, fishing, watching NASCAR on television or attending the races when he was able, hula hooping, and relaxing on the swing on his back porch enjoying a cup of coffee or a RC Cola and peanuts or a moon pie. Albert's family would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the Hospice and Palliative staff for their support, sympathy and their gestures of love during such a difficult time. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Johnny Wilkes; daughters Pamela Wilkes and Patricia Hutchinson; previous wife Charlene Dell Wilkes; and several brothers and sisters.

Albert is survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Deborah Allen Wilkes; children Levada (Dean) Duggar and Albert (Laura) Wilkes, Jr.; stepchildren Thomas (Cheryl) Lee Wilkes, Margaret Virginia Jenkins and Ashley (James) Chappell; grandchildren James Ryan Hodges, Jason Ronald (Renee) Wilkes and Destiny Chappell; sisters Murl (Pete) Gilner and Ruby (Mike) Wagoner; and many other grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, nephews, nieces, other extended family members and his fur baby Bullett.

A celebration of Albert's life was held Tuesday, April 9 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Danny Baggett officiating. The family received friends Monday, April 8 at the funeral home. Interment followed at Green Pine Cemetery.

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

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

FERNANDINA & NORTH JACKSONVILLE

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FSCJ Earns Military Friendly Gold Status Again

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) was once again named a Military Friendly® School with a "Gold" ranking for 2024-25, in recognition of leading practices, outcomes and effective programs for student veterans. This is the second year in a row the College has received this designation. Postsecondary schools across the country were evaluated using public data sources and their responses to a survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-25 survey,

with 537 earning special awards for going above the standard.

Final ratings were determined by combining each institution's survey responses with an assessment of their ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students, specifically for student veterans. "FSCJ is proud to be recognized as a gold-level Military Friendly School again for

the second year in a row," said College President Dr. John Avendano. "Our faculty and staff consider it a privilege to walk alongside active-duty and veteran students, helping them to achieve their goals through higher education. We are grateful for their service and sacrifices, so it's our honor to help them succeed in any way we can."

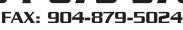
The Military and Veteran Services department is the principal advocate at FSCJ for active military, veterans, military spouses and dependents,

ensuring their unique needs are met. The staff serve as a connection to educational, financial and support resources to help these students be successful in their academic, professional and personal pursuits. Learn more about

FSCJ's services for active-duty military, veterans, military spouses and dependents here: https://www.fscj.edu/military-veterans. To view the list of Military Friendly schools, visit https://www.militaryfriendly.com/schools/.

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Life Care Easter a Success!

The Life Care Center of Easter Eggstravaganza was a huge success! It was a wonderful event and lots of fun for everyone. A special thank you to Beacon Home Health and Olivia, for donating the prize baskets for visitors!













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