

## Strawberry Festival

**BEGINS THIS FRIDAY!**

The 1st Annual Nassau County Strawberry Festival will begin this Friday, April 26 at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds. The festival will feature lots of rides for all ages, games, traditional carnival food, and of course strawberry food items. There will be strawberry shortcake, strawberry tacos, strawberry ice cream, strawberry funnel cakes, milkshakes and much more. There will also be a baking contest for homemade pies and desserts with strawberries as the main ingredient. To enter the baking contest, call 904-504-9519.

The festival kicks off this Friday, April 26 at 5 p.m. through Sunday, May 12 at the NE FL Fairgrounds. Admission is \$10 per person (ages 14+); Youth (ages 13 & under) \$5 per person; and 24" height & under get in free. Ride tickets are 1 ticket for \$1.75 (most rides range from 2-4 tickets per person). Unlimited mechanical ride armbands are sold daily.

There will be lots of different entertainment throughout the event. America's favorite monkey jockeys can be seen at the festival as they take the race track riding dogs. The amazing Strong Man show will entertain, as he juggles three 30 lb. tires all at once. Watch him bend a half inch steel bar with his teeth and to top it off, he will pull a 2000 lb. Jeep with his teeth using a leather strap.

See the Victoria Cirus: a world class show of spectacular circus acts: High Wire walker who walks 20' above the ground; circus clowns; and the Globe of Death, motorcycles racing inside a steel cage. From Virginia Beach Young Corbz has been an entertainer since he was 5. Studying Michael Jackson's every move you'll see why this high energy tribute show is a must see. With all the professional sound, disco lighting, special effects, and this amazing choreography by Young Corbz himself you'll feel like

you're at one of the King of Pop's live performances.

The newest attraction is the Be A Star Video Karaoke. Here you get to come on stage put on a show under disco lighting and special effects. You are a performer as you sing your favorite song, lip sync, or just dance to your favorite song. You can record a music video and/or go live promoting your social media with your own device. This is a must for all singers and dancers.

From Washington, DC, comedy hypnotist Benjamin Jackson gets his volunteers relaxed into hypnosis as he will show you the power of hypnosis by having his volunteers do many different zany things on stage. Be prepared to laugh at this show. You never know what will happen on stage, but you'll be sure to have a great time. For a thrill, there will also be Monster Truck rides for everyone!

The Miss Strawberry Queen Pageant will be held Sunday, April 28 at 3 p.m. If you are interested in being in the pageant, email Christina at: [nassaustrawberryqueen@yahoo.com](mailto:nassaustrawberryqueen@yahoo.com) for more pageant details.

River Hill Bucking Bulls will present a Rodeo Sunday, May 4 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 per person or \$25 for festival and rodeo. This is going to be action packed. Bull Riding and Mutton Busting! There will be some of the top bull riders in the south east as well as some of the hottest up and coming mini bull riders and mutton busters! This will be fun and exciting for every member of your family!

Get your tickets now and skip the lines by visiting: [www.Nassaustrawberryfestival.com](http://www.Nassaustrawberryfestival.com). The website also has the full entertainment schedule and times. Please see page 12 of today's paper, for a complete line-up of specials for each day.

## THREE-PEAT! Conner is Three-Time State Champion

For the third year in a row, Hilliard Middle-Senior High School's Colton Conner is the Weightlifting State Champion in the Traditional 139 class. This past Saturday, Conner became the only male in Nassau County to win 3 state titles in the Florida High School Athletic Association's 1A state contest. He benched 295 pounds; and clean and jerked 230 pounds for a total of 525 pounds, and the state title.

Colton is a very humble, dedicated and calculated athlete. During last year's

state championship, he competed with a fractured wrist. He noticed pain one month before the competition, but pushed through thinking it wasn't a serious injury. He followed the 2023 season with surgery to correct the fracture and a few minor setbacks that kept him out of

football for his senior year. He did not let it get him down; he used the time to train for the third state title he was searching for. Colton, 19, has competed in the same weight class for the past three years. This is very impressive and can be difficult to do as a growing teen boy especially while gaining muscle weight. With a goal in mind, Colton followed his strict diet of mostly chicken, fish, rice and lots of milk, lifted daily and would run nightly to stay in his weight class.

Colton's proud parents are Lyle Conner and Missy Conner. He attributes his years of success to his trainer and stepdad, Eli Jensen. Together, they have spent countless hours in the weight room at school with the team and Coach Jason Collins and then they go home to their home gym to fine-tune his form. They began this journey when Colton was in the 6th grade. He competed on varsity in only the 8th grade in the 119 class and excelled, however, due to



Covid, there were no District, Regional or State competitions. As a freshman, he placed 4th in the state in the 129 class.

"It's been an amazing journey," states Jensen. "I never had to push him. I would only ask him if he thought his competition is working harder than him."

Ryland Hall, also a senior at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, won 4th Place in the Unlimited Class in the Traditional with a 375-bench press and 290 clean and Jerk. His proud parents are Bryan and Paige Hall of Callahan.

As a team, Hilliard High School placed 5th in the 1A State meet for Traditional.



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# Confederate Memorial Day Observed

Kim Hoffecker, Chaplain, Kirby-Smith 1209

In the state of Florida, April 26 is designated as Confederate Memorial Day. Local camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold observances throughout the confederation. The observance is also known as Confederate Heroes Day and Confederate Decoration Day.

The first observance occurred April 26, 1866, when the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia passed a resolution to set aside one day annually to memorialize the Confederate war dead. These ladies penned letters to the Ladies Associations in every former Confederate state to join them in this observance. The date of April 26 was chosen by Elizabeth Rutherford Ellis, as the anniversary of Confederate General Johnston's surrender. In observance, fresh flowers were to be scattered on the graves of the Southern war dead. This was simply referred to as "Memorial Day." Confederate was not added



until two years later in 1868 when the organization for former Union soldiers picked up on this example from the Southern ladies and in 1882 adopted the name "Memorial Day."



The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The tenacity with which they fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 held a Confederate Memorial Day Service Saturday, April 20 in Old City Cemetery in Jacksonville. The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers, sailors and marines. Organized in Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 years is preserved. For more information on the SCV, visit: [www.scv-kirby-smith.org](http://www.scv-kirby-smith.org).



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# Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final meeting of April. The first order of business was a Public Hearing and First Reading on Ordinance 2024-02. The ordinance concerns Amending Chapter 62 Zoning and Land Development Regulations of the Hilliard Town Code; Section 62-1 – definitions; Amending Section 62-36 – Notice of Public Hearings; Amending Section 62-281 – Zoning District Regulations; adding Section 62-386 – Wireless Telecommunication Facilities. The council approved the Ordinance on First Reading. Final Reading and Public Hearing was set for June 6, 2024.

The next order of business was the council's approval to adopt Resolution 2024-09, to accept a Florida Department of Transportation offer of a Public Transportation amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Environmental Assessment.

Parks Commissioner Joe Michaels advised the council the Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg was unable to attend but is requesting the council's approval to begin the seasonal staffing for the summer. The council approved the request.

In other business, the council approved payables for Project: IT Town Hall Park expansion in the amount of \$2,953.65. The council also approved payables to Mittaurer & Associates, Inc. for Project: FDEP PA0302 Oxford Street Force Main Rerouting in the amount of \$3,450.

In closing comments, Michael Roland, a resident of the Southern Pines subdivision, approached the podium to address the council. "I just want to say I've been trying to get my wife set-up here in Hilliard in her salon, rather than driving to Jacksonville," said Roland. "I feel like I have been shafted by the town. I've paid a permit of \$2,300 and we need to put two sinks in. Back to the town I went and was told it would be \$1,896 additional to add 2 sinks. It's not like she's going to have 15 chairs in the salon. I'm asking for direction about this problem. I can't seem to get anywhere."

In other comments, Mayor John Beasley reminded the council that it will be Food Truck Friday, August 26 from 4-8 p.m. at Town Hall Park.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m.

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Short and sweet this week due to the fact that Dawn and I returned home Monday from a short cruise and my mind is still sailing the Caribbean. Once your mind is cleared from all the political strife occurring daily all across the world and you see God's marvelous creations, it makes me totally confused as to why we human-beings have made such a mess of things. This is a beautiful world given to us by God, and we have squandered it.

Life could be so wonderful for us all if only we would allow it. We as the inhabitants of this creation have followed the path set forth by Adam and Eve and allowed the snakes of the world convince us that we know better than what God knows. We crave power and greed over each other, we crave moral iniquities trying to find happiness, we crave illicit drugs and alcohol trying to find happiness, but yet no worldly motive ever helps us reach that happiness we are searching for. If we all would surrender to God and just sit back and watch the beauty of a sunset or a sunrise and realize the magnificence of having made it through another day, or realize we have been blessed with another day, it would change our mind set.

Count your blessing each day, focus

on the good things in your life, attempt to turn a negative into something positive. Search your soul and discard the bad habits that you have allowed to control your life. It can be done. I smoked cigarettes for 50 years, I tried every gimmick associated with quitting, and I never could achieve that goal, until one day I truly gave it to God for help. He answered me as if He were standing right next to me, He said to me, "My timing My way." I never gave it another worry and without any fear or worry my craving began to go away. Me, Roger West, who had basically resigned to the notion I would smoke until my death, quit. I have been smoke-free for over two and a half years now, not because of my own willpower but because God said He would make it happen and He did!

If we could all learn to allow God to direct our paths in life, can you even imagine how different our world would be? We all should earnestly pray for our nation, not for just what we know is noble, but pray for the enemies of our nation and world as well. Hard times are here and harder times are coming. However, sincere prayer can soften hearts and our future.

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

## CLASS REUNION

### West Nassau High School Class of 1978

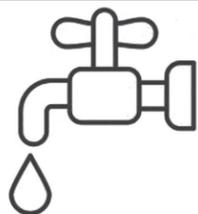
WNHS Class of 1978 Reunion, 45+1 (46) years, will be held Saturday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Walter Junior Boatright County Building in Callahan. The cost is \$20 per person. Please contact Ellen Froitzheim Monds at 904-510-2124 for more information.

## KEENE FAMILY REUNION

The Keene family reunion will be held Saturday, April 27 at Hal Keene's home, 282085 Lake Hampton Road, Hilliard, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Don't forget to bring your favorite food, dessert, and drinks. Call (904) 707-9832 or (904) 879-0870 for information.



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## Jones Cemetery Association ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, April 26

7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the NE FL Fairgrounds Office

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# The Return to the Land

*Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard*



I Chronicles-Esther - As we are continuing our journey through the Old Testament, we will conclude the Historical books in this month's article. Last month, we considered the gift and the giving of the land of promise. The land of promise was given to Israel, but the land was not given in such a way that the nation of Israel was guaranteed to keep the land forever. If Israel was unfaithful to the covenant that they had entered into with God, they could lose the land. The books of I-II Kings, showed how and why Israel lost the land. Exile from the land was the ultimate covenant curse. This followed the pattern of exile from paradise in Genesis 1-3. The God of the Bible is a faithful God. The God who promises curses for disobedience also promised to restore his people to their land. The last of the historical books show us how God makes good on his word to restore his people to the land of Promise.

• I-II Chronicles: The books of I-II Chronicles were originally one book in the Hebrew Bible. In the Hebrew Bible, the book of Chronicles was the last book in the Old Testament and was part of a group of books called the writings. The major difference between I-II Chronicles and I-II Kings is that author of Chronicles does not alternate between the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The author's focus is only on Judah. Israel never returns from the Assyrian Exile in 722 BC. The Southern Kingdom of Judah does return back to the land of Promise after the Babylonian captivity was over. I-II Chronicles show us how God faithfully keeps his promise to restore his people under the administration a king from Judah. I Chronicles speaks of David's royal ancestry (1-9) and the reign of David (10-29). In II Chronicles, we see the construction of the temple (1-9) and the destruction of the temple (10-36). Within the chapters of the destruction of the temple we see the kingdom divided (10-13), the kingdom of Judah falls (14-36:21), and the restoration of the kingdom of Judah (36:22-36).

• Ezra/Nehemiah: Like the books of I-II Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah were originally one book in the Hebrew Bible. Both books give the history of the rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra) and the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem (Nehemiah). Both books begin with brick-and-mortar work and conclude with the work of rebuilding the lives of the people. In the book of Ezra, the temple is reconstructed (1-6) and the lives of the people are rebuilt (7-10). In the book of Nehemiah, the city of Jerusalem is reconstructed. Chapters 1-7 narrate the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls and chapters 8-13 narrate the rebuilding the lives of Jerusalem's inhabitants.

• Esther: The book of Esther speaks of the existence of God's people who did not return to the land of promise. Esther and company stayed in Persia. They were exiles and strangers in hostile territory. The book of Esther reveals God's providence in preserving in his people outside of the land of promise. The book of Esther can be divided into two sections: Grave danger in chapters (1-4) and great deliverance (5-10).

With the close of the book of Esther, all of the History of the Old Testament has come to an end. The wisdom literature and prophets all fit within the historical books. The Historical books of the Bible show us that God's word can be trusted. God will always do what he said he would do. The agent of deliverance is God. As these books conclude we see that the restoration that Judah experienced was partial, but real. The ultimate fulfillment of the promise of restoration will come through the Messiah. The Messiah is the Son of David, whose body/temple was destroyed and was raised three days later. As a result of the work of the Messiah, God's people will experience the renewal of all things in the resurrection. Paradise will not be lost forever.

# Second Baptist Welcomes New Pastor

The members of Second Baptist Church, 45019 Johnson Road, are delighted to announce that following a long search, God has answered our prayers for a new pastor. Please welcome Pastor Bryant M. Wilcox and his wife Yazmyn, to our church family.

Pastor Wilcox, First Lady Yazmyn and their sons Issac and Isaiah are residents of Jacksonville. Pastor Wilcox is also the Chaplain at Edward Waters University. His position at EWU gives him a unique feel for the

pulse of Christians growing in faith.

Join us for his Installation Services Sunday, April 28, at 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at Second Baptist Church, 45019 Johnson Road, Callahan. For more information call the church office at 904-628-0713 or email: 2ndbaptistchurchcallahan@gmail.com.

God has prepared us for a new beginning, come and share this joyous event with the Second Baptist Church Family.

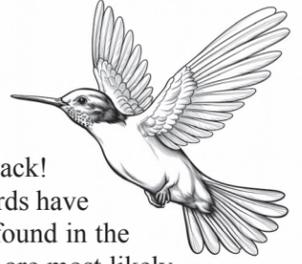


# Gardening Tips from Callahan Garden Club

*Barbara Wheeler*

Hummingbirds: Our fierce, feathered friends are back! They are fast, they eat a lot and the Florida Hummingbirds have returned. Up to 11 of the 16 species of hummingbirds found in the United States have been seen in Florida. However, you are most likely to see the ruby-throated hummingbird, as it is the only breeding hummingbird in Florida. If you have not put out your feeders, it is time to do so!

As you get your feeders ready, wash them with hot water and vinegar-avoid using soap or bleach. Prepare your own feeder solution with one part white, granulated cane sugar to four parts water. Boil the sugar solution to help dissolve the sugar and allow it to cool before filling the feeder. Change the solution every 3 to 5 days. Now place your feeder in a partially sunlit area, 5 to 6 feet from the ground, in an area with shrubs, bushes and native flowers. These provide perches and protection for the hummingbirds. Now, just sit back and watch the fun!



# CHURCH NEWS

The Youth of Hilliard First Assembly of God will be selling Barbeque Pork Sandwiches, \$10 (sandwich, chips and drink), Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the red light in Hilliard. Money raised will go to help the Youth go to camp.

Sanctuary Baptist Church meets Sundays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Callahan County building, 45401 Mickler St. in Callahan. Come join us!

Join us for Revival Sunday, April 28 at First Baptist Church of Boulougne! Morning service at 10:45 a.m. with musical guests, Phillips & Banks. Evening service at 5 p.m. followed by finger foods in the fellowship hall.

CHURCHWIDE YARD SALE this Saturday, April 27 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Pentecostal Assemblies, 37299 Oxford St., Hilliard.

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2 Samuel 22:29-31

## WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

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# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Mr. and Mrs. Doug Pearson Celebrate 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Doug and Ann Pearson, of Hilliard, are celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary with a trip to Vancouver, British Columbia, and a "rail" experience through the Canadian Rockies. They were married in April of 1969. Ann is the daughter of James and Charlotte Waits of College Park, Georgia; and Doug is the son of David and Frances Pearson of Berea, Ohio. The couple met while in college in Milledgeville, Georgia in 1967.

Doug served in the U.S. Air Force and the F.A.A. for 36 years; and Ann taught school for 20 years at Callahan Elementary. They both retired in 2003 and now enjoy traveling.

They moved to Hilliard in 1974 and have been blessed with two sons; a granddaughter; and a great-granddaughter. Congratulations!

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**Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at noon.**

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**Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at Noon 879-4180 • news@westsidejournal.net**

**YARD SALES**

**CHURCHWIDE YARD SALE!** Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Pentecostal Assemblies, 37299 Oxford St., Hilliard.

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., 54320 Armstrong Road, Callahan. Exercise equipment, lots of women's clothes, miscellaneous items. All must go!

**MOVING SALE!** Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. - until? 54633 Marsh Road, Callahan. Home decor, bedroom & living room furniture, tools, washer/dryer, men, women & teen girl clothes & shoes, Mini 4-wheeler, Go-Cart & Golf cart.

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE!** Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., 44372 Artesian Blvd (near end of road). Lots of kids & adults clothing, shoes, books, toys, couch, household items & much more! Rain or shine - under the carport!

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**AUCTION**

**FRANKLIN MINI STORAGE** of Hilliard is holding a public auction on Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. at County Road 108 East in **HILLIARD**. Units HF102, HF109, HI136, HI148, HI159, and HK 189 contain household items and/or tools and will be auctioned. **FRANKLIN MINI STORAGE** of Callahan is holding a public auction on Saturday May 4 at 11:00 at 541468 US Hwy. 1, **CALLAHAN**. Units CA3, CA69, CE219, CE254, CE269, CE278, and CE281 contain household items and/or tools and will be auctioned. For any questions about the auctions please contact Carrol Franklin at 904-945-1707. 50224

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# POLICE REPORTS

Names, Addresses and all information appearing in the Police Reports are taken from the Sheriff's Department files and do not necessarily indicate guilt, only that arrests were made or charges were filed.

**Thursday, April 18**

Melissa Kaye Kerch, 54, Callahan: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon

**Friday, April 19**

Dwayne Ray Rageth, 37, Hilliard: Aggravated Assault

## Lengthy Investigation Stops Lethal Drug Pipeline in Nassau County

Annette Elaine Jones, a 37-year-old from Jacksonville, has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for Trafficking substantial quantities of Methamphetamine and Fentanyl over the past two years. Over this period, Jones was involved in the distribution of 50 kilograms of methamphetamine and 5 kilograms of the highly potent opioid fentanyl.

The arrest on March 16, 2023, was the culmination of a lengthy two-year investigation conducted by a multi-agency task force comprising the Nassau County Narcotics Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Through meticulous surveillance and controlled buys facilitated by undercover detectives at pre-determined locations in Yulee, investigators gathered substantial evidence of Jones' drug trafficking activities. Laboratory analysis confirmed that the substances purchased during these transactions tested positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl.

In a statement, Nassau County



Sheriff Bill Leeper emphasized the collaborative efforts to combat dangerous drugs like fentanyl, saying, "As sheriff of this county, I can't stress enough that we are working diligently to get these dangerous drugs like fentanyl off the street. I'm happy to say we have another dangerous criminal behind bars who won't be able to kill any more people with this poison."

The successful investigation and prosecution of Annette Elaine Jones, demonstrates the unwavering commitment of law enforcement agencies to disrupt drug trafficking operations and hold accountable those who endanger communities by peddling deadly substances.

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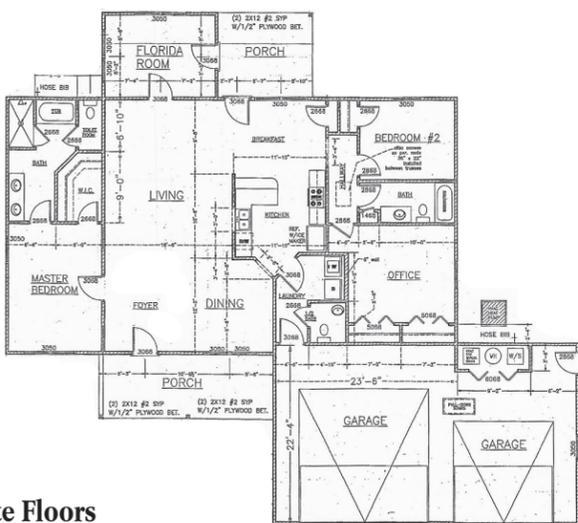
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**WARNER ARMBRUSTER**



Warner Armbruster, 90, of Moore Haven, Florida, passed away April 11, 2024 at Hope Hospice in Leigh Acres, Florida. He was born July 5, 1933 in Elyria, Ohio, to Seldon G. Armbruster and Betty (Henry) Armbruster. He was a 1951 graduate of Willis High School in Delaware, Ohio. He served in the United States Navy Reserves from 1952-1954. He was a retired Air Traffic Controller. He had a love for farming and sailing. He was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws James D. and Mary Ann Grey; daughters Deborah Armbruster and Laura Herrington; daughter-in-law Deborah Dillard Armbruster; grandchildren Steven Radford, Lucian Smith, Charles Armbruster and Jeremy Armbruster; brother Seldon F. Armbruster; and sister-in-law Kathryn Armbruster.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 41 years, Kathleen (Grey)Armbruster; sons David (Catherine) Armbruster and Warner (Marla) Armbruster, II; daughters Patty (Jim) Greiger, Beth (Butch) Rice Ashley, Linda (Stevie) Sikes of Hilliard, Veronica Armbruster and Marion Armbruster; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sister-in-law Susan Grey; brothers-in-law Scott (Linda) Grey and Peter (Dominique) Grey; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**PAMELA JUNE BEARD**



Pamela June Beard, 62, went home to be with the Lord April 1, 2024. She was born February 10, 1962, in Jacksonville, to Charles "Chuck" Frances Driehurst, Sr. and the late Shirley Ann Blume. Pam was raised in Jacksonville, but spent most of her adult life in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She had a gentle spirit and loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Pam was an avid animal lover and Florida Gator fan. She was preceded in death by her mother Shirley Ann Blume; husband

# OBITUARIES

Christopher John Beard; and brother Charles "Chuck" Frances Driehurst, Jr.

Pam leaves behind her sons, Stacy (Jennifer) Driehurst and James (Tiffany) Burch; five grandchildren Julie Driehurst, Savannah Driehurst, Jessica Driehurst, Caleb Burch and Emery Burch; sister Cindy (Bobby) Hadden; nephews Ethan Hadden, Michael Driehurst and Chris Driehurst; and a niece Leslie Driehurst.

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**JOHNNY STANTON EASON**



Johnny Stanton Eason, 87, of Hilliard, graduated from this world and entered the gates of Heaven April 15, 2024, at the Community Hospice Warner Center in Fernandina Beach, with his loving wife by his side. He was born April 26, 1936 to Joseph Herman and Pearl Davis Eason in Micro Township of Johnston County, North Carolina. Johnny married his wife of over 25 years, Margie Ann Eason, on August 15, 1998, in Jacksonville. He began and answered his Christian calling and was ordained on May 31, 1956, in Mount Olive, North Carolina. Johnny preached and told the gospel of Christ for more than 67 years. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Joseph Rudolph Eason and James Earl Eason; sister Linda Eason Edward; and grandson Silas Edenfield.

Johnny leaves behind his wife Margie Eason; children Hannah (Gary) Smith of Broxton, GA, Crystal Oxley of Hilliard, Amber (Dustin) Meeks and Archie (Jessica) Edenfield, all of Lyons, GA, Robert T. (Erin) Companion of Yulee and Russell Companion of Jacksonville; grandchildren Garrett Smith, Dillion Smith, Brandy Hicks, Justin Wilkes, Adelaide Meeks, Alaric Meeks, Kayla Companion, Caden Companion, Caleb Companion, Carrionna Companion, Jason Edenfield, Gideon Edenfield and Michael Edenfield; great-grandson Kreed Smith; and numerous

friends and spiritual family members who all cherished, adored, appreciated and respected Rev. Johnny Eason.

A memorial service for Johnny will be held Wednesday, June 12 at 12 p.m. at Buford Grove Baptist Church.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**RICHARD HARTWELL KING**



Richard Hartwell King, 81, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, April 20, 2024, at the Douglas Center for Caring in Jacksonville. He was born on August 28, 1942, in Jacksonville, to Sam H. and Florence T. King. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High School in 1960. He served in the U.S. Army from 1961 - 1967. He was a police officer with the Jacksonville Police Department, which later became the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, retiring in 1989, following 25 years of service. He later was employed at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, retiring in 2005 as Chief of the jail. He was president of the Jacksonville Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5-30 for several years. He was chairman of the first contract negotiations committee on behalf of the police officers employed by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. He was also a member of the first Honor Guard for the Jacksonville Police Department.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Carol; daughter Laurie King; son David (Christi) King; grandchildren Travis (Katrina) Foures, Ashley (Lance) Hetz, Kaylie (Samuel) Higginbotham and Macayla King; great-grandchildren Kyra, Tyson and Trent Foures, Ethen, Camryn, Aubryn and Haylen Hetz and Chloe, Ava and Luke Higginbotham.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 25 at 11 a.m. at River Road Baptist Church in Hilliard prior to the funeral service at 12 p.m. with Pastor Benjie Loyd officiating and a special message from Pastor Stephen Peoples. Interment will be held Wednesday, May 1 at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

**MARY JEAN TAYLOR**



Mary Jean Taylor, our beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend, went home to be with the Lord April 20, 2024, while surrounded by her family. Mary Jean was born June 1, 1935 in Jacksonville, to the late John L. Reeves, Sr. and Nettie Conner Reeves. Mary Jean attended Double Branch school until the 9th grade and on May 27, 1952, married her true love Junior (Ernest Taylor, II). Mary Jean and Jr. went on to have seven children. She worked many years as a seamstress and retired in 1997 from the Nassau County School Board working in the elementary school cafeteria.

The most important part of her life was her family. Mary Jean enjoyed crocheting beautiful Afghan blankets, doll dresses and baby blankets. She was an active member of Nathalene Primitive Baptist Church and enjoyed going to sings. Mary Jean lived to be 88 years old. We are all blessed that God sent us an angel and allowed us to call her mom, granny, sister, aunt and friend. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten. Heaven just got a little sweeter. Mary Jean is preceded in death by her husband, Ernest Taylor, II; sons Johnny Taylor and Don Taylor; daughter Mary Sue Swanson; infant baby; two grandchildren; a great-great-grandson; and son-in-law Dan.

Mary Jean is survived by her children, Larry (Debbie) Taylor, Wanda Duett and Ernest (Tammie) Taylor; brother Marvin Reeves; sister Berta Lou Sikes; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; many great-great-grandchildren; son-in-law Dennis; daughters-in-law Jeanette and Melinda.

Mary Jean's grandsons will have the honor of being pallbearers.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 25 from 6-8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Mary Jean's life will be held Friday, April 26 at 11 a.m. at Nathalene Primitive Baptist Church, 17106 Nathalene Drive, Hilliard, with Elder Jimmy Brannen and Elder Tollie Lee officiating. Interment will follow at Nathalene Cemetery.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

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## CMS Softball County Champs!



Congratulations to the Callahan Middle School Softball Team for winning the County Championship recently! Team members are: Renee Absher, Raelynne Ashley, Kelsea Bass, Carley Beriault, Madison Cole, Jayda Current, Kerrigan Hudson, Brylie Page, Realyn Savage, Karsyn Shook, Reagan Smith, Kaylee Stafford and Khloe Stafford with Coaches Skylar Whitty and Tracee' Whitty.

## Friends of NRA Event Postponed

The Friends of NRA Event has been postponed due to circumstances beyond our control. We truly apologize for any inconvenience this has caused. The event has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 10, 2024 and will be held at Camp Sorenson in Hilliard.

If you have any questions, or would like to help make this a huge success, please contact Karen at: ncfra01@gmail.com or call 904-903-9552.

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## TIME FOR SHRIMP!

**SUNDAYS:**  
30 pc Shrimp  
with 2 sides  
**\$11<sup>99</sup>**



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**WEDNESDAYS:**  
30 pc Shrimp  
with 2 sides  
**\$11<sup>99</sup>**



904-845-2016

Watch our Facebook pages for Specials!

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# HOUSTON'S MEATS

*If you're buying your meats anywhere else, you're paying too much!*

<p><b>5 lb. Bag Fully Cooked Chicken PARTY WINGS</b> <b>\$10<sup>00</sup></b> Expires 4-30-24 WJ Limit 4 Bags With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>OYSTERS!</b> <b>\$75 50 LB. BUSHEL</b> <b>\$40 1/2 BUSHEL</b> <small>WE HAVE PINTS</small> <b>\$25 PARTY BAG</b> Expires 4-30-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p><b>LEG QUARTERS</b> <b>\$7<sup>95</sup></b> 10 lb. Bag Expires 4-30-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>USDA Whole T-BONES</b> <b>\$6<sup>95</sup> lb.</b> Cut the way you like! Expires 4-30-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>
<p><b>10 lb. Bag FRYER DRUMSTICKS</b> <b>\$7<sup>95</sup></b> Expires 4-30-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</b> <i>Sliced the way you like it!</i> <b>\$4<sup>99</sup> lb.</b> WHOLE OR HALF Expires 4-30-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p><b>Meaty Pork SPARE RIBS</b> <b>\$1<sup>99</sup> lb.</b> 2-3 Pack Expires 4-30-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>COUNTRY STYLE BREADED SHRIMP</b> <b>\$8<sup>95</sup></b> 3 LB. BAG 21-26 SIZE Expires 4-30-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>
<p><b>Meaty Beef NECKBONES</b> <b>\$2<sup>00</sup> lb.</b> Expires 4-30-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>	<p><b>15 lb. Case OX TAILS</b> <i>Cut the way you like!</i> <b>\$115</b> Expires 4-30-24 WJ While Supplies Last With this Coupon</p>

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HOURS: 8:30 AM - 6 PM, CLOSED SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY  
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# West Nassau's Top Weightlifters

West Nassau High School finished 4th in the state as a team in the recent Florida High School Athletic Association state competition! The final results from each weight class are: Will Davis 2nd Place; Kenny Velasquez 4th Place; Connor Scaff 5th Place; Brandon Miller 6th Place; Kaleb Studt 7th Place; Garrett Rica 7th Place; Cason Gregory 10th Place; Caleb Keeton 10th Place; and Tucker Shuler 12th Place.



Will Davis



Kenny Velasquez



Connor Scaff



Brandon Miller

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# NASSAU COUNTY Strawberry Festival

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A BERRY GOOD TIME!

## APRIL 26 - MAY 12

### ADMISSION & UNLIMITED RIDE ARMBAND SPECIALS

#### ADMISSION PRICES:

Adults (Ages 14+) - \$10  
Youth (Ages 13 & Under) - \$5  
24" and Under Height - FREE

**FUN GAMES**  
**GREAT FOOD**  
**MANY RIDES**  
**MONSTER TRUCKS**  
**STRAWBERRIES**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**  
**BAKING CONTEST**  
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Nassau County Strawberry Festival

**FRIDAYS**  
**APRIL 26 • MAY 3 • MAY 10**

All Day Unlimited Rides:  
5 p.m. - Midnight \$30  
Moonlight Madness:  
9 p.m. - Midnight \$25

**MONDAYS - DOLLAR DAYS**  
**APRIL 29 • MAY 6**

\$1 Admission for Everyone!  
All Day Unlimited Rides:  
5 p.m. - 11 p.m. \$25

**THURSDAYS**  
**MAY 2 • MAY 9**

Free Admission with  
Paid Armband at Gate  
All Day Unlimited Rides:  
5 p.m. - Midnight \$30

**SATURDAYS**  
**APRIL 27 • MAY 4 • MAY 11**

Matinee Unlimited Rides:  
2 - 6 p.m. \$20  
All Day Unlimited Rides:  
2 p.m. - Midnight \$30

**TUESDAYS - TWO-FOR-TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 30 • MAY 7**

Two All Day Unlimited  
Ride Armbands for \$30  
5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

**MISS STRAWBERRY  
QUEEN PAGEANT**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**  
at 3 p.m.

Ages 0 - 18 • 8 Age Groups

Email: NassauStrawberryQueen@yahoo.com

**SUNDAYS**  
**APRIL 28 • MAY 5 • MAY 12**

Matinee Unlimited Rides:  
2 - 6 p.m. \$20  
All Day Unlimited Rides:  
2 p.m. - Midnight \$30

**WEDNESDAYS - HUMP DAY**  
**MAY 1 • MAY 8**

Parents Ride Free with Paid Child  
Armband or Ride Tickets  
All Day Unlimited Rides \$30  
5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

#### RODEO

**SATURDAY, MAY 4 at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.**

Bull Riding & Mutton Bustin'

\$20 Admission

\$25 Admission for Festival & Rodeo - Save \$5

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