

"IN MY DISTRESS I CALLED TO THE LORD; I CALLED OUT TO MY GOD.  
FROM HIS TEMPLE HE HEARD MY VOICE; MY CRY CAME TO HIS EARS." - 2 SAMUEL 22:7

## Mikkelsen Property Cleaned Up

*Dawn S. West*

The Hilliard Town Council met via video conferencing Thursday night for their first meeting of May. The council held a public hearing and second and final reading on Ordinance 2020-03. The ordinance concerns amending and modernizing Chapter 42 - Streets, Sidewalks and other public places; Article II - Culverts; Amending Section 42-31(C) permits required for installation; and Amending Section 42-33 - pipe size. The council unanimously approved the ordinance.

The council also approved Resolution 2020-10, which concerned amending culvert fees. This culvert fees were amended due to the increase cost of the pipes. The council approved the resolution.

Mr. Richard Powell of Powell & Jones, Certified Public Accountants, went over the September 30, 2019 Annual Financial statements for the town. Mr. Powell covered several of the (over 80) pages of the financials. "We found nothing out of the ordinary in the financials for the year," said Powell. "We enjoyed and were honored to work with the staff and employees to provide anything we needed." The council approved the annual statement.

Following, the council approved to renew the contract for Powell & Jones for the years 2020-2022 with no increases in charges.

Greg Foster, NC Emergency Management Director, recommended the council to consider having a WeatherSTEM Station installed in Hilliard. The station is a small device that will be located within the town. The contract is for a 10-year period in which the town will only have to pay for 7 years. This will allow the National Weather Service another location in which to measure weather happenings in our area. The station will also be accessible for residents to log on and see the conditions in Hilliard. The cost will be \$440 per year for seven years, with the first three years paid. The council approved the recommendation.

Public Works Director Richie Rowe provided quotes for concrete repair under the dumpster at the wastewater treatment plant. During an inspection as part of the permit renewal for the wastewater treatment plant, the DEP noted that the washout under where the concrete pad that the dumpster sits on must be filled in. The council

approved A One Concrete Services for the repair, at a cost of \$1,810.

Rowe also requested approval for a capital purchase of cleaning and inspection of the storm water drains on two street in Hilliard. The streets in concern are W First Street and Wisconsin Street. The town will piggyback off of a previous bid to get a better price per foot. Envirowaste Services Group, Inc., will be the contractor of the services.



Rowe continued with an update on the Mikkelsen Estate Property Phase II. "We have had a lot of bushhogging done on the property but I am requesting about 30 more hours of work," said Rowe. "It looks much better but I think we need to finish it off. We are also talking with some pulpwood contractors about taking out some trees to open the area up." The council approved NE FL Land & Fence, LLC, in Hilliard, to work another 30 hours on the property.

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis requested approval to accept termination requests from Parks and Recreation Director Kyle Malucci for two after school employees, since they are no longer working. The council approved the request. Malucci was unable to attend the meeting.

Purvis also requested approval to start hiring summer staff for the recreation department. "I think we need to hire them as soon as possible and get the pool open and summer programs going," said Councilman Kenny Sims. "People will soon be getting back to work and looking for places for their children. We need to be ready to take them as soon as possible."

"I agree with Councilman Sims about getting the summer programs up and going now," said Councilman Jared Wollitz.

The council approved hiring summer staff now.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m.

## ARE YOU THE PARENT OF A SENIOR 2020?



The Westside Journal is excited to honor our local high school seniors. We would like to publish special editions for both West Nassau High School and Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Seniors, however we are relying on participation from parents to achieve this. This will be a publication like we've never done before. Color formal photos of the seniors will be printed on a bright stock paper and inserted into our regular issue. This will be a great keepsake for your senior to commemorate their unusual senior graduation year.

SPACE is LIMITED for this special issue. Information has been posted on both of the schools' senior Facebook pages. For more information and prices, call the Westside Journal office at 879-4180. The deadline for both schools' senior ad information is Wednesday, May 20 at 5 p.m. You may email your submissions to news@westsidejournal.net. Photo (color), wording and payment are due at that time. We accept cash, check or credit/debit. All graduating seniors' formal photos will be printed in the publication regardless of participation.

## Fairground Improvements Continue



The Northeast Florida Fair Association is continuing to watch the improvements at the fairgrounds. The back parking lot has been completely paved and lined with parking spaces. There will still be more lighting and fencing added to finish the lot. In fact, Easter Sunday, the Fair Association partnered with Callahan First Baptist Church to hold their Easter service in the parking lot. They estimated about 200 vehicles attended the service.

The other addition, which is huge, is three new buildings going up. Currently, the contractors have been working on the concrete foundations and footers. They plan to begin erecting the buildings at the

end of the month. Two of the buildings are 300' x 80' and one is 120' x 100'. They will be the new livestock barns and livestock and show arena. Our fairgrounds are really going to look different this year thanks to the new upgrades and additions!



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**Jesus Saves**  
*Pastor Arlie Johns, Hilliard First Assembly of God*



Growing up in the city Tampa, my parents raised me going to church every Sunday morning and evening and even on Wednesday nights. I guess we really went every time the doors were open. The church we went to was located in an area called Sulphur Springs. It was kind of off the beaten path, back in a neighborhood on the corner of 13th and Bird. The only real land marks that I can remember being in the area were back on the main roads. There was an old water tower, a big swimming pool down by the river and a dog track.

The old church sat on a corner lot with big steps going up into the sanctuary. The fellowship hall was down stairs and on the front of the church was a neon sign in the shape of a cross with the words that said, "JESUS SAVES."

We have had so much discouraging news over the past few months with this COVID-19 stuff, I thought I would just take a minute and share some good news.

The Good News is that "Jesus Saves," just like the sign on the Old Church said. My God hasn't changed. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. John 10:10 says, "Jesus came that we might have life, and life more abundantly." Jesus didn't come to condemn the world, but He came that we might have everlasting life.

Think of the many times in the Bible that people were in desperate circumstances and they cried out to Jesus. Jesus met them right where they were. Remember the story of the woman with the issue of blood in Matthew 9; she said that if she could just touch the hem of his garment that she would be healed and she was. And there is the story of the Centurion in Matthew 8; when he came to Jesus asking for help for his servant. Jesus spoke the word and his servant was healed at that very moment.

Then there is the story in Mark 2, when Jesus came into the city of Capernaum. The people heard that Jesus was there so they gathered around the house. That day there were four men who carried a paralytic in hopes that Jesus could touch and heal him. But, the Bible says that the crowds were so big that they couldn't find a way into the house. These men were determined to find a way for this man to see Jesus. The Bible says these men were so desperate that they dug through the roof of the house making an opening so that the paralyzed man could be lowered right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He looked at the paralyzed man and not only healed him, but he also forgave his sins. Jesus saved the paralytic man that day.

I want you to know that it doesn't matter how desperate your situation looks, "Jesus Saves." You might be going through a tough time right now but Jesus cares for you and He still saves.

Jesus went to the cross for your salvation. Why don't you call out to Jesus today? Like the sign on the old church said, "JESUS SAVES!"

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# Blood Drive & Fish Fry Fundraiser

With the support of the Hilliard VFW Post 10095, the Blank Check Society of America will be holding our Annual Blood Drive/Fish Fry on Saturday, May 16 at the VFW Post 10095, located across from the Hilliard Airpark. One Blood (with 2 buses) will be onsite from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. They will be honoring our First Responders and donors with a FREE Dinner. The need for donations of blood is very high.

Fish dinners will also be available for purchase for \$5 per plate. All proceeds/



donations will be used to purchase flags that will be placed upon our Veterans graves; and to assist with the purchasing of Christmas Wreaths for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. You may also pre-purchase a Christmas wreath if you wish for \$15.

With the ongoing pandemic, the safety of our community will be our first priority. We hope the community will come together and support this event and help honor these heroes on the frontline!

## Attempted Murder Arrest

On Tuesday, May 12 around 6:30 a.m., Nassau County Sheriff's Office deputies were notified of a shooting that occurred at 54148 Janice Drive in Callahan.

NCSO's investigation revealed that the victim was a former boyfriend of Kayla Marie Rittenhouse, 18, from Callahan, who lived at the address where the shooting took place. The victim came to Kayla's residence in an attempt to reconcile with Kayla and settle some personal differences he had with Kayla's new boyfriend Blayke Jordan Morris, 17, also from Callahan. Once the victim entered the yard of the residence and was standing in the driveway, he spoke to Kayla who was standing near the porch about 20 feet away. At that time Morris, who was hiding behind a trash can approximately 25 feet from the victim, emerged and shot the victim in the face with a sawed-off shotgun, causing serious bodily injury. The victim was transported to UF-



Health in Jacksonville by Nassau County Fire-Rescue.

Further investigation revealed that Kayla discussed shooting the victim with Morris prior to the incident if the victim came on her property. The victim was unarmed.

Blayke Jordan Morris was arrested and charged with Attempted Murder; Possession of a Short Barrel Shotgun; and Possession of a Firearm by a Minor.

Kayla Marie Rittenhouse was arrested and charged with Attempted Murder.

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

To the ones who think I'm crazy, this week's column may solidify your beliefs. In all reality, I don't care what you think of me, what I do care about is my country. Right now, my (our) country is being lead down the primrose path of destruction by the COVID-19 fiasco. America is being run by Dr. Anthony Fauci and the scarf welding dragoness Deborah Birx. Both are One World Order/Globalist sympathizers.

After hours of reading and listening to interviews, I am 100% confident that the COVID-19 Pandemic is a well-orchestrated plan by the Global elites. As one Pastor put it, this is a rehearsal to see how easily the masses will follow the governments' orders even though it goes totally against our Constitution and our First Amendment rights. We, as a nation, certainly pleased the elites, because we all swallowed their plan, hook line and sinker. We as a country have reacted just like a bunch of sheep being herded down the chutes unaware that death waits at the end.

I earnestly believe that the times in which we are now living is the beginning of the end. Tribulation has begun. I am not saying that the virus is a hoax. The

virus is real and it can be very bad to some people, but it is not as bad as they are programing your mind to believe. In actuality, it is no worse as other viruses have been in the past.

The thing missing today that was present in the past is, "common sense." If you feel bad, stay home! If you feel as if you are vulnerable, stay home! Wash your hands often! Do not put any faith in the mainstream media! They are lying to us! There is no such thing as unbiased reporting; they (NBC, CBS, CNN...) all receive their transcripts from one source. Every network is reporting the same story verbatim. Don't believe me? Research it and you will see it is the truth.

It is time for "we the people" to stand up and tell the governments we are tired of being sheeple and we are taking our country back. I want to shake hands; I want to go to the beach or Home Depot no matter how many people are there. Yes, I may contract the virus, but God is in control with that, not the government. Live smart, live free and if you don't want to come outside stay in, but don't infringe upon my right to live openly.

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

## Letter to the Editor

Old Dixie has a facelift!

Dear Editor,

My heartfelt thanks to whoever realized the awful condition of Old Dixie required immediate action. The road was literally falling apart, so someone, somewhere, accelerated the work by giving it what I hope is a temporary facelift. I can take my wife to the doctor without being concerned about the undercarriage falling off. This side of Nassau County has a bright future. Growth? Yes. Modernization? Yes.

It was not cheap to do this, but is sure beats someone pouring a shovelful of cold patch in the holes. Thank you to whoever recognized the need and directed the action!

Bob Huntley

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# WN Wrestlers Sign for College!



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Brendan Ferenchik

The hard work paid off and two West Nassau High School wrestlers are heading to college on a wrestling scholarship! Congratulations to Requan Works who signed a letter of intent to attend Keiser University in West Palm Beach; and to Brendan Ferenchik for his letter of intent to Iowa Wesleyan University in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Congratulations!

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# Orange Street Repairs Begin



Dawn S. West

After nearly two years of being closed, the repairs to open up Orange Street in Hilliard have begun! The culverts under the street were destroyed during Hurricane Irma in September 2018. Immediately, the road was closed causing lots of aggravation for many Hilliard residents. What a 'breath of fresh air' to see the work begin and the crew is getting it done! The bid winner for the project was Capps Land Management & Materials, LLC, from Jacksonville. When the company was notified that they had received the bid

they were ready to get the job done as quickly as possible, hoping to be close to finished prior to this year's hurricane season. The company didn't get the actual approval to proceed until April 14, 2020, which shortly after, equipment was moved to the site. It doesn't look like they will be finished before the season starts, however the timeline does have a finish date (barring no problems or weather delays) of November 10, 2020. Of course, they will strive to finish before that but time and weather will tell! Hilliard residents are just so thankful to see the work begin!

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# Dayspring Senior Living Celebrates Families with Parade

Dayspring Senior Living hosted a "Reconnect Florida Parade" to help celebrate the residents and families at Dayspring Senior Living. After two months of 'lock down' due to the Coronavirus, the staff at Dayspring Senior Living opened the gates for the first time this past Friday, May 8 and allowed guest in to be a part of the "Reconnect Florida" parade.

Local county officials along with several of the facilities vendors participated in the parade with family members. Mr. George Spicer served as the grill master for the event providing take-out dinners for families. Eric Abaliso was the guest musical artist playing in the park.

"We were thrilled that so many families made the trip and came with signs to share their love and support for the residents at the facility," said Douglas Adkins, Executive Director. "We know that we need to create a pathway towards allowing families and residents to reconnect in a smart ways that ensures their safety. We were the first facility in Florida to test all staff and all residents for COVID-19 as part of our plan to keep residents safe. We have now tested all staff and residents twice and we have been 100% negative! The parade, cookout



and music in the park allowed us to create an atmosphere that sends a clear message that we are planning a path forward and yes we believe it is possible to create a step by step approach that will allow families and residents to reconnect."

Dayspring Senior Living is a state licensed Assisted Living Facility with a limited nursing license. The facility opened in 2016 and is family owned and operated here in Nassau County. To learn more, visit: [www.dayspringseiorliving.org](http://www.dayspringseiorliving.org) or call 904-845-1940.



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# OBITUARIES

## JAMES RUSSELL ASPINWALL



James Russell 'Sammy' Aspinwall, 81, of Baxley, Georgia, formerly of Callahan, passed away Wednesday, May 6, 2020, in Sammy's words, of old age, at his residence. Mr. Aspinwall was born June 15, 1938 in Patterson, Georgia, to the late Oscar and Evie Winn Aspinwall. He was a retired machinist having retired from Anheuser Busch and Seaboard Railroad.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Shirley Miller Aspinwall of Baxley; daughter Glenda and Pete Wright of Baxley; sons James Wayne Aspinwall and Donald Ray and Sherry Aspinwall, all of Callahan; sister Jane Brown of Orange Park; and brother Gene Aspinwall of Jacksonville; eight grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Swain Funeral Home, Baxley.

## CAROLYN V. CASSIDY



Carolyn V. Cassidy, 93, a native and lifelong resident of Jacksonville, passed away Monday, May 4, 2020. She was a faithful, devoted and founding member of Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and was active in various ministries, including the CWC Ladies Guild. She was a Past President of St. Vincent's Medical Center Auxiliary, Past President of the Catholic Woman's Club, and a Life Member of All Saints Nursing Home.

She is survived by her special friends Jewel S. Griffin, Michael and Galynna Griffin, their children and many nieces, nephews, cousins and the entire Diamond D Ranch Family. Ms. Cassidy was predeceased by her first husband, Horace R. Powell in 1966; her second husband Irwin Edward Cassidy in 2001; and her mother

Nina W. A'Vant Hurlbert.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated privately, at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church by Reverend Michael Larkin. The co-celebrant will be Reverend Adam Izbicki. Private interment will follow at Deese Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, her request was that donations be made to Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church's Building Fund and St. Vincent Medical Center's Building Fund.

Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin served the family, [www.warrenfamilyfuneralservice.com](http://www.warrenfamilyfuneralservice.com).

## WILLIAM SAMUEL CHANCEY

William Samuel Chancey, 66, of Hilliard, passed away on April 27, 2020. He will be truly missed by all that knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife Sherry Sikes Chancey; his grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren.

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

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

## WILLENE K. GOODWIN



Willene Kilpatrick Goodwin, 88, of Nassau County, Florida went home to be with the Lord on May 4, 2020. She was born on June 1, 1931 in Nassau County to Brice Hagler and Nellie Bell Knight Hagler. Willene enjoyed sewing, reading books and cooking. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Gray Gables and loved working in the Children's Church. She also served as statistician for her church's men's softball

team, which was coached by her husband, Louis F. Kilpatrick. In her earlier years, her life revolved around Louis, her children, and her church family. Later in her life after Louis' passing, she married Arthur Goodwin with whom she shared a number of years before his passing. She is preceded in death by her parents; first husband Louis Kilpatrick; and late husband Arthur Goodwin.

Willene is survived by her son Louis (Dawn) Kilpatrick; daughters Judy (Quincy) Harris, Wanda (Rusty) Phillips and June Constande; grandchildren Robert (Cynthia) Kilpatrick, Kenneth Hunter, Jr., Tonya (Chris) Sawyer, Jessica (Donnie) Knight, Beki (Grant) Morris and Woody Harris; sister Nina (Paul) Douberly; great-grandchildren Kailey, Buddy, Bree, Jamie, Nate, Ella, Hannah and Easton; great-great-grandchild Dallas.

A graveside service was held Thursday, May 7 at Edgewood Cemetery in Jacksonville, with Pastor Cody Page officiating.

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

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

## WILLIAM THOMAS JAMES, JR.



William Thomas 'Billy' James, Jr., 91, of Duval County, was lovingly swept home by the Lord on May 8, 2020. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 4, 1929 to William Thomas and Edna Mae James. Billy was a member of Chaffee Road Church of Christ. He loved his Lord and family. He enjoyed watching women's college softball, Florida Gators, but most of all watching his children, grandchildren and

great-grandchildren excel in academics, trades and sports. He is preceded in death by his parents; and his late wife Elizabeth Ann James.

He is survived by his brothers Eddie James, Donald James, Carlton James and Buddy James; three children Richard (Wendy) James, Tommy (Kari) James and Susan (Neal) Dean; eight grandchildren Serina, Kim, Troy (Ashley), Travis (Megan), Lauren (Adam), Mike, Evan (Christy) and Seth (Kayla); and 22 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends prior to the graveside service held Tuesday, May 12 at Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery in Jacksonville, with Minister Eddie James officiating.

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

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

## FLORENCE MILLER JOHNSON

Florence Miller Johnson, 78, of Hilliard, passed away Wednesday, May 6, 2020 in Jacksonville. She was born November 5, 1941 in Milledgeville, Georgia to the late Sam Miller and Emma Brookins Miller. She was a homemaker and attended Buford Grove Baptist Church and Gateway to Life Church in Hilliard.

Along with her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Harold Franklin Johnson.

She is survived by her children Louise Smith, Johnny Resseau, Kathy (John) Ballance, Janice Spann, Monte Johnson, Mickey (Linda) Johnson, Marty Johnson, Michael Johnson and Mitzi (Joey) Roy; two sisters Lillie Brake and Mary Baker; 16 grandchildren Cody Johnson, Miranda Johnson, Brooke Johnson, Brad Johnson, Caitlyn Johnson, Savannah Johnson, Alexis Roy, Hunter Roy, Tebow Roy, R.C. Smith, Eddie Smith, Bubba Ballance, John Ballance, Beth Ann Ballance, Kathy

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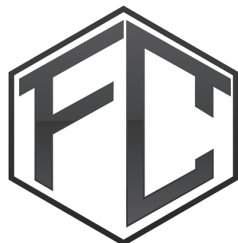
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Graveside funeral services were held Saturday, May 9 at Buford Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Bruce Cubbedge officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.shepardfh.com](http://www.shepardfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

**REV. GENE R. MURPHY**

Rev. Gene Richard Murphy, 80, of Hilliard, passed away Monday, May 4, 2020 in Jacksonville. He was born May 11, 1939 in Bluefield, West Virginia to the late Joseph Murphy and Dorothy Mae Moore Murphy. He proudly served his country in the US Army. He was a Pastor and Christian Counselor for the Assemblies of God in Lakeland, for a number of years before his retirement. He was a member of Hilliard First Assembly of God. Along with his parents; he was preceded in death by his two sons Ryk Murphy and Joseph Murphy.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sarah Elizabeth Murphy; a daughter Cindy Murphy (Tom) Sivik; three grandchildren Tiffany Nichole Sivik, Cally Nichole (Tommy) Miller and Trina Nichole (Dalton) Williams; two great-grandchildren EllieMae Grace Miller and Mason River Williams.

A graveside funeral service was held Friday, May 8 at Floral Memory Gardens in

**OBITUARIES**

Dade City, Florida with Rev. Norm Bradley officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.shepardfh.com](http://www.shepardfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston, Georgia.

**LEONARD E. PACE**



Leonard E. Pace, 90, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, May 7, 2020 following a brief illness. He is a native of Jacksonville and is a

1947 graduate of Andrew Jackson High School. He entered the U.S. Army during the Korean War on November 13, 1950 and served until November 7, 1952, receiving the rank of Sergeant with the Military Police Corp. Leonard returned to Jacksonville and married the love of his life, Shirley Coker, on July 14, 1956 at Riverview Baptist Church. He began his employment with the Duval County Road Department and worked through Consolidation with the City of Jacksonville Streets & Highways until his retirement in 1972, serving for 25 years. He worked with Anheuser Busch as a machine operator and retired in 1992.

Leonard and Shirley loved to camp and

travel and he also was an outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing. They are current members at Gardenview Baptist Church and former members at Riverview Baptist Church, Wingate Baptist Church and Highlands Baptist Church.

Surviving family include his wife of 64 years, Shirley Coker Pace; one son Raymond Pace and his wife Karen of Callahan; one grandson Raymond Pace, Jr. Leonard was preceded in death by his parents Carl and Lillie Pace; one sister Carlee Jackson; and one brother J.T. Pace.

His family received friends Tuesday, May 12 at Peoples Event Center, Jacksonville. A celebration of life service was held Wednesday, May 13 at Gardenview Baptist Church with Pastor Jason Reid officiating. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to Alzheimers Association, Community Hospice or Gardenview Baptist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.ppf.com](http://www.ppf.com).

Peoples Family Funeral Home, Jacksonville, handled arrangements.

**AUDRIE McCLANATHAN TERRY**



Audrie McClanathan Terry, 43, passed away May 2, 2020 in Jacksonville. Audrie was born in South Korea on December 13, 1973. She graduated from Hilliard Middle-Senior High School in 1995. She loved spending time with her family and friends and was known for her loving spirit and bright smile. She was a devoted mom and friend to all who crossed her path. We will retain her memory in our hearts.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather Jeong Goo Lee; and paternal grandparents Richard and Ruby McClanathan.

She is survived by her son, Dylan Terry; her parents Roger and Myong Sun McClanathan; her grandmother Young Oh One; her brother Clifford (Cindy) McClanathan of Hilliard; nephew Landen McClanathan; niece Addison McClanathan; fiancé Johnnie Bennett; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the memorial service will be delayed. The date will be announced at a later time.

**Obituaries are published free of charge. They may be emailed to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net).**



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