

"IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE PEOPLE, SO THEY CAN SEE THE GOOD THINGS YOU DO AND PRAISE YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN." - MATTHEW 5:16

Remembering Former Mayor David Buchanan

Dawn S. West

Last week, the county lost a fine man...David Buchanan. He passed away Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at his home, following an illness. His funeral service was held Friday, May 10 at the First Baptist Church of Hilliard. It was less than three months ago, February 16, that his high school sweetheart and wife of 55 years, Ann, passed away. Those two were truly a team and they loved their family. Our prayers continue for their family during this difficult time.

David was a man of many accomplishments. He served his country in the US Army in Vietnam, which we all know was a difficult task.

He was proud to be a Veteran and carried that title with honor. He later worked with the Nassau County School District as the Director of the Transportation Department for many years and eventually retiring. From that experience he learned the importance of

the upkeep of school buses, adding new routes as the county continued to grow. Trying to maintain bus drivers and help to iron out daily issues as they arose.

During the same time, his wife Ann was working as an educator in Nassau County. She spent most of her years in Hilliard and took her job to heart. She was known as not only a teacher but a mentor to many children, always making herself available for students to confide in her. She also mentored many young teachers beginning their career. She retired following 37 years of service but continued to volunteer at the schools anytime she was asked. She loved children and being there for them.



David served as the Mayor of the Town of Hilliard for 18 years. He was always active in encouraging the growth in Hilliard, while still trying to maintain the 'small town' feeling. Once David completely retired, he and Ann continued to serve



in Hilliard. They served hot apple cider, hot chocolate and cookies, at the Hilliard Tree Lighting Ceremony for years, including last year at the new Town Hall Park. They could also be found each year at the Hilliard Clean-Up serving coffee, hot chocolate and donuts to everyone as they signed in.

In his spare time, he enjoyed riding his motorcycle on day trips with friends,

playing his guitar and meeting his friends in the afternoon at Five.5. I saw them many times when I was dropping off papers at the restaurant. It was always funny to me that the men would be talking and laughing and see me... they would immediately quiet down. I would always ask, "Y'all want to share something with me?" They would all smile and say no!

The Buchanans were faithful members of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Hilliard. They were a special couple that loved their family. They loved times one on one with their children but also loved the times when the entire family was able to be together. It was a house full but it brought them joy.

Our community is a better place because of David and Ann Buchanan. You can see their hands in many places throughout our town and county. Our thoughts and prayers continue for this sweet family for the comfort that only God can provide.

Ensuring Sunshine Students are Ready to Work

The school year has nearly come to a close and Sunshine students have been preparing all year to enter the job market. The high school Financial Literacy class has taught students the skills and knowledge needed to successfully present themselves as the most qualified candidates for a job opportunity. To put these new skills to the test, an event called "The Great Shake Off" was born on the SCA campus. Each academic school year, Sunshine Christian Academy

high school students are taught proper resume writing, enhanced job interviewing skills, how to properly shake hands while looking the person in the eyes, verbal and non-verbal communication, and how to properly dress for success. After much time practicing and honing these skills, students are put to the test in a realistic simulation called "The Great Shake Off."

Each year elected officials, local business leaders, and industry professionals are asked to serve as the interviewers. These pillars of the community jump at the opportunity to help and make a positive impact on the next generation of students and future employees. This year, Nassau County Commissioners Klynt Farmer, Alyson



McCullough and John Martin served, as well as Dawn West, Stuart Amos and Mr. Pilcher donated their time and experience to this worthy endeavor. They acted as the interviewers representing a number of different industries.

During the interviews, students are rated on their skill in five categories: Appearance, Communication, Greeting/Handshake, Resume and Overall Impression. After all students

complete the process, everyone comes together for the opportunity to discuss and give constructive feedback. As a result, the students become more confident and ready to compete for career opportunities.

This year's winners were: 1st Place tie: Cole Petree and Abigail Colley; 2nd Place: Paisley Broussard; Best Handshake: Jade Morris; Best Dressed: Gabe Wooten; and Best Resume: Riley Gressman.

For more information about Sunshine Christian Academy please visit www.sonshinechristian.com.



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Two HMSHS Athletes Sign



Last week, two Hilliard Middle-Senior High School seniors, Brandyn Seldomridge and Auneria Doyle, signed letters of intent to attend college and continue their athletic career! Brandyn will be attending Flagler

College in St. Augustine in the fall. He plans to study health science with a focus on Sports Training. He will be playing Division II basketball for the Flagler College Saints. He is the son of James and Monica Cason; and Jeremy Seldomridge.

Auneria will be playing for the FSCJ Manta Rays women's basketball team. She plans to study Business Administration in hopes of owning her own Clothing Business and Salon. Her proud parents are Chris and Brandi Doyle.



CES Production Crew Visits WJXT Studio

The Production Crew from Callahan Elementary recently toured the WJXT News4Jax studio in Jacksonville. Students observed how the work they do on the morning announcements is performed in a professional setting.



In the Kitchen... Crock Pot® Party Meatballs

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 (2 lb.) bag frozen cooked meatballs | ½ lemon, juiced |
| 1 (14.5 oz.) can whole berry cranberry sauce | 2 drops hot sauce (such as Tabasco®), or more to taste |
| 1 (12 oz.) bottle tomato-based chili sauce | |

Place frozen meatballs into a slow cooker. Add cranberry sauce, chili sauce, lemon juice, and hot sauce. Stir to distribute sauce evenly over meatballs. Cook on high until meatballs are completely thawed and hot, about 3 hours.



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WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

Dawn West Publisher
Roger West Owner/Reporter
Jessie Pickett Graphic Designer

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Groundbreaking Ceremony for Fire Station 90

We are excited to announce that the Board of County Commissioners will host a Groundbreaking Ceremony in celebration of the upcoming construction of a new Fire Station 90. This station will be built at the existing Station 90 site located at 3195 County Road 2 in Hilliard.

Following a competitive process, the Board awarded the bid for design/construction of the new station to ACON Construction Company, Inc. The new, modern facility will consist of 10,891 square feet and will feature four bays with an engine, rescue unit, tanker and brush truck. It will also contain 11 sleeping quarters, four and half bathrooms, a living room, a kitchen and an exercise room. Board Chairman John Martin stated, "The first duty of government is the protection of residents. Proactive planning has

allowed us to further the capabilities of Nassau County Fire Rescue by acquiring new personnel and equipment, as well as adding stations to ensure the department has the capacity to meet the demands of a growing community. The brave men and women of Station 90 need a modern station that meets current national standards and provides a safe, comfortable space for our emergency personnel to use when not responding to calls. This new station will serve the department and the community well for many years to come and we look forward to celebrating this important milestone with our residents."

The Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place Monday, May 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the site: 3195 County Road 2, Hilliard. For questions or information, call the Nassau County Fire Rescue at (904) 530-6600.

CLASS REUNIONS

West Nassau High School Class of 1978

WNHS Class of 1978 Reunion will be held Saturday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Callahan County Building. The cost is \$20 per person due by May 17. Please contact Ellen Froitheim Monds at 904-510-2124 for more information.

West Nassau High School Class of 1974

The WNHS Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th year reunion October 26 at 1881 Occasions at 6 p.m. in Hilliard. The event will be \$30 per person. Mail your check or money order to: Nancy Tew Lee, 274021 Murree Rd., Hilliard, 32046.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

"It is Barack Obama who corrupts the Justice Department. It is Hillary Clinton who routinely breaks the law and gets away with it and now we have Joe Biden who's learned. He's learned from Obama that it doesn't matter what you do. If you're a liberal Democrat you will not be prosecuted. He learned from Hillary that a person in high public office can get millions and millions of dollars. And they learned from watching Donald Trump a true outsider willing to take on the entire system could destroy their entire machine so what you're seeing across the country is a desperate last-ditch effort by a corrupt machine to destroy their most dangerous opponent in a way which not only breaks the Constitution, destroys the rule of law and establishes a moment of bitterness which I think will last for a generation or more. I think this is going to be a horrendous period and we just need to understand the people who want to control America and dictate to the rest of us will break any law, lie about any topic, and manipulate the system any

way they can and that includes a lot of the elite news media," stated Newt Gingrich.

Truth is sometimes brutal, often times we try to dismantle truth and twist the facts to be more palatable for us. However, no matter what one does to and with the truth, it remains the truth. It is so difficult for me to understand that there are many that just can't or don't want to see the truth of our ever so corrupt government. I do realize that satan has infiltrated every aspect of our lives. He has control of elected elites; he is in our school systems across the nation and is also invading a lot of churches.

However defeated we may feel at times, we have to remember that God is mightier than any other force on earth and those that so choose to believe in Him will be the victors! Yes, we are going to face some very daunting times, but the victory is going to be sweeter than honey. I agree with Newt 100%.

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

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans monthly meeting will be held Monday, May 20 at the Pig BBQ restaurant in Callahan, at 7 p.m. If you are interested in the history 1861-1865, please plan to attend!

The Hilliard First Assembly of God Youth group will be selling Barbeque Pork Sandwiches for \$10 (sandwich, chips & drink) this Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the traffic light in Hilliard. Money raised is for youth camp.

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In Everything Give Thanks...

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



These are the words of God found in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks..." I find it is harder for those in our society to have a heart of gratitude. To be thankful takes no special skill and at one time was considered among the most common of courtesies.

This article will not be a rebuke upon those who are ungrateful, but yet an opportunity to express my own gratitude for a special group of people in our community...our teachers. Those who sacrifice each day investing themselves into the next generation of the public schools, private schools, charter schools, Christian schools and even our homeschools.

As summer quickly approaches, there is a much-needed rest coming to those leaders who will still be working when you leave on family vacation and who will already be thinking about how they will prepare to do better this next school year.

It is rightfully so that we celebrate our graduates during this time of year. Graduating high school is a great accomplishment and milestone in life. But there are those, behind every graduate, who care almost as much as the parents and are glad to let the seniors take the spotlight for themselves because that is the quiet victory of every teacher. Watching families celebrate the life accomplishment of a young adult is the only joy found in the selfless work of a teacher.

So, teachers...thank you! Thank you for imparting knowledge with a heart that desires for your students to be better than they ever thought possible. Thank you for the late nights and early mornings. Thank you for the patience and protection. Thank you for the many talks and wisdom. Thank you for being faithful and for never giving up. And especially thank you for being the teacher that some student is going to remember forever! Have a great summer!

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

Hilliard Book Club Welcomes You!

The Hilliard Library Book Club would like to invite new people to the club! We meet the second Thursday of each month at noon at the Hilliard Library. In June, we will be discussing *That Summer* by Jennifer Weiner; and in July we will be discussing *Every Breath* by Nicholas Sparks. We are a casual, fun and relaxed group that would love to have you join us! To be added to the email list, email: aard@nassaucountyfl.com or call (904) 530-6500, option 4, for more information.



FSCJ Receives Grant to Support Career and Technical Education

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) was awarded an \$897,577 grant as part of a \$25 million Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Program (CAP), developed to provide Florida students with opportunities for hands-on educational experiences in a broad range of career and technical education. FSCJ's funding will assist dual enrollment programs focused on welding and medical assistance, supporting supply and equipment purchases. It will allow two Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) high schools, A. Philip Randolph Career Academies and Frank H. Peterson Academies, to build out and expand their labs to enhance student learning and prepare them for certification exams. "This is a great collaboration between us and our partners to provide pathways in dual enrollment programs, working closely with DCPS to update equipment, provide industry standard

training experiences and prepare students for their future," said FSCJ Dean of Workforce Education Dr. Greg Wurth.

The upgraded labs and learning spaces will give students access and opportunity to gain valuable skills and begin working on Post-Secondary Vocational Career Certificates while still in high school and with no out-of-pocket costs. In the official press release announcing the award, Governor Ron DeSantis said, "In Florida we have become the number one state in the nation for talent development by making strategic investments in our workforce. We will continue to equip students in our state with the skills they need to succeed, without being burdened by debt."

For more information on the CAP Grant, visit <https://www.fl DOE.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/capgrant.stml>.



Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Thursday, May 23 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Hilliard Library - 15821 CR 108

Join us at the Hilliard Library as we host a Super Smash Bros tournament with our Nintendo Switch! This FREE 1v1 event is for ages 8-17. We will have a trophy for 1st - 3rd places! Please RSVP at nassaureads.com/events. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hilliard Branch Library and the Town of Hilliard. For more information, call 904-530-6500, Opt. 4.

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church, located across from Hilliard Town Hall, will be selling Spaghetti Dinners Friday, May 17 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each.

The Hilliard First Assembly of God Youth group will be selling Barbeque Pork Sandwiches for \$10 this Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the traffic light in Hilliard.

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Chamber Launches 'Nassau County Employment Resource Hub'

The Nassau County Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the launch of its new Nassau County Employment Resource Hub, created to revolutionize the way individuals connect with workforce resources in the Nassau County area.

The Nassau County Employment Hub, located on the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce website, provides users with access to various resources and tools aimed at making it easier than ever to connect local job seekers with local employers. Visitors can easily access a list of full-time, part-time, seasonal, or contract positions on the Nassau County Job Board. Within each listing, job seekers now have the ability to upload their resume directly through the Chamber website; the system will automatically notify employers when a resume has been added.

Interested in applying but need a resume refresh? The Resume Builder Service is one of many tools found on the Employment Resource Hub and completely free of charge. Whether

you're a seasoned professional aiming for career advancement, a high school student looking for summer employment, a recent graduate stepping into the workforce, or a retiree in search of a part-time opportunity, having a professional resume is essential for success, and we're here to help.

The Nassau County Chamber of Commerce invites all individuals, employers, and students to explore the Nassau County Employment Resource Hub and take advantage of the various tools that are available, with new resources and programs being added on a regular basis. The Chamber believes in fostering growth, opportunity, and prosperity for both businesses and individuals alike.

To learn more and start exploring the Nassau County Employment Resource Hub, please visit the Chamber website at: www.NassauCountyFLChamber.com. For questions or additional information, please email the Chamber at info@NassauCountyFLChamber.com or call (904) 261-3248.

Nassau County Teen Court

Join us for Teen Court! Real Teenage offenders...Real Crimes...Real Court Sanctions handed down. All by Teen Attorneys, Jurors and Court Officers.

Next Session: Tuesday, May 21, 2024

We need you to volunteer to serve on our Jury today! Stay in touch by phone or emails! Sign-in between 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boys; and modest dress for girls. Court begins promptly at 6 p.m. and is over by 7 p.m. 3 Hours Community Service for each Court Session! We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorneys in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team! Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy, the coordinator, at 904-548-4520 or email nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com.

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.

- Thursday, May 16 • 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Line Dancing with Tanya
- Friday, May 17 • 2-3:30 p.m. • Popcorn and a Movie, "Pan"
- Monday, May 20 • 2-4 p.m. • Memory Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc.
- Tuesday, May 21 • 1-3 p.m. • Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"
- Wednesday, May 22 • 2-3 p.m. • YouTube Crafts
- Thursday, May 23 • 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Line Dancing with Tanya
- Friday, May 24 • 2-3 p.m. • Q & A with the VFW
- Monday, May 27 • Closed for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 28 • 1-3 p.m. • Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"
- Wednesday, May 29 • 2-3 p.m. • YouTube Tai Chi
- Thursday, May 30 • 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Line Dancing with Tanya
- Friday, May 31 • 2-3 p.m. • Q&A with NCCOA Staff

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<p>LEG QUARTERS</p>  <p>10 lb. Bag \$7⁹⁵</p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>USDA Whole T-BONES</p>  <p>\$6⁹⁵ lb.</p> <p><small>USDA INSPECTED (BEEF)</small></p> <p>Cut the way you like!</p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>
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<p>10 lb. Bag FRYER DRUMSTICKS</p>  <p>\$7⁹⁵</p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</p> <p><i>Sliced the way you like it!</i></p>  <p>\$4⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p><small>WHOLE OR HALF</small></p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>
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<p>Meaty Pork SPARE RIBS</p>  <p>2-3 Pack \$1⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>COUNTRY STYLE BREADED SHRIMP</p>  <p>3 LB. BAG 21-26 SIZE \$8⁹⁵</p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</small></p>
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<p>Meaty Beef NECKBONES</p>  <p>\$2⁰⁰ lb.</p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</small></p>	<p>15 lb. Case OX TAILS</p> <p><i>Cut the way you like!</i></p>  <p>\$112</p> <p><small>Expires 5-21-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</small></p>
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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.

Wake Up America!

Dear Editor,
So OBiden finally comes out about the protestors taken over colleges across our country and destroying property for over a week. Why did it take so long? Because he wants to play both sides. He wants to appease the protestors who have chanted for Hamas and for death to Israel and America. He is an incompetent president and a puppet to the ones ruining our country.

He leaves our borders wide open while sending millions of our tax dollars to Ukraine to defend their border. Says he needs more money to defend their border. Says he needs more money to defend our border but continues to send millions to Ukraine? I wonder how much of this he gets back. The self-proclaimed sanctuary cities are now crying for help after taking in millions of illegals and bragging about it. OBiden only wants to let illegals in so they will vote for him.

My tax money should not be used to support illegals or pay off student loans. It's all about

buying votes and destroying America. We have Veterans struggling and doing without and seniors the same. These citizens have paid taxes and served our country, OBiden gives illegals all kinds of benefits? Wake Up & Vote Them Out! I usually call them like I see them.
Rocky Lynn

Ewing Park

Dear Editor,
On the front page of your May 9 issue, you commented about the lack of participants in the National Day of Prayer. I used to be a regular participant until a couple of years ago. With the population explosion came an explosion in the local violent crime rate. This obviously includes Ewing Park. It's gotten so bad that I no longer feel safe at the park, even in the middle of the day, much less in the evening. With the rate that the population is continuing to grow in Callahan, it will soon become even less safe to live here.
K. Wentworth

SEG Encourages Neighbors to Take Action During National Hurricane Preparedness Week

Grocer donates \$250,000 to American Red Cross and offers discounts on essential disaster supplies

Southeastern Grocers Inc. (SEG), parent company and home of Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, is encouraging its customers to begin preparations now during National Hurricane Preparedness Week as early predictions expect a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season, which begins June 1. In anticipation of the active 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, the SEG Gives Foundation donated \$250,000, as well as vital bottled water and shelf-stable snacks to its long-standing partner, the American Red Cross. The donation to the disaster relief effort will ensure the organization is able to quickly provide aid to communities in need. Spanning more than 70 years, SEG has donated more than \$12 million over the lifetime of the partnership.

"As we brace for the potential impact of a very active hurricane season, we are encouraging our neighbors to be proactive by making necessary preparations now. With nearly 100 years serving the Southeast, we understand the uncertainty severe weather can bring, and we know being prepared early is the best defense," said Anthony Hucker, President and CEO for Southeastern Grocers. "Through our enduring partnership with the Red Cross and our extensive experience in preparation and disaster response, we are the neighborhood grocer our communities can always count on before, during and after disaster strikes."

Several preseason forecasts have indicated that researchers expect an extremely active hurricane season due to high sea-surface temperatures and the

high likelihood of La Niña development. In record-breaking predictions, hurricane research scientists estimated 23 named storms with 11 anticipated to become hurricanes, including five major hurricanes of Category 3 or higher.

SEG urges neighbors to take action now to prepare their families for an overactive hurricane season.

To prepare, customers are encouraged to review the Red Cross' Survival Kit Supplies checklist for essential items needed following a disaster. Each household should be

prepared with the appropriate amount of water, nonperishable food, batteries and first aid kits as well as any necessary baby supplies and pet food.

The grocer is committed to helping customers save money while stocking up their hurricane kit as well as maximizing discounts on everyday grocery essentials. Through its signature Price Hold program, SEG lowers and holds down prices on more than 1,000 commonly shopped products each season to help families stretch their grocery budget. Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie customers can easily shop for emergency preparedness staples like shelf-stable foods, batteries, cleaning supplies and hygiene items to replenish their disaster supply kits and save nearly 20% on products identified by blue Price Hold signs.

For more information on shopping at neighborhood stores for disaster preparedness needs, visit: www.harveysupermarkets.com/community/hurricane-preparedness and www.winndixie.com/community/hurricane-preparedness.



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Mason Riley Alderman
Camrin Dee Anderson
Triton Edward Anderson
Madison-Mikayla L. Areal
Kyleigh Tru Armstrong
Roslynn McKenzie Auth
Abigail Eden Bailey



Hayden Michael Barnes
Graci Mae Belcher
Isabella Alesia Bennett
Kimberly May Bergman
Peyton Alexander Beverly
Kailey Rae Blackall
Caitlyn Riley Boone
Hayley Christine Boyd



John Preston Brock
Makayla Michelle Browning
Kristen Taylor Bruton
Justin Travis Bryan, Jr.
Colleen Lynn Bunting
Tisha Lee Burden
Hunter Ellis Burns
Brooke Elizabeth Busekrus



Hannah Bree Campbell
Angelina Alexis Carney
Gracie Morgan Carpenter
Kinleigh Shea Carter
Cameron Vaughn Castejon
Maddison D. Champney
Noelle Ruby Chapman
Abby Lorraine Clayton



Schelby Lynn Clifton
Kenneth Wayne Clowers, Jr.
Evelyn Ruth Cohoon
Robert Dallas Coleman
Khristian Izaiah Collins
Crew Keegan Conner
Laura Leigh Conner
Stran Kyler Copher



Kyle Jayce Courson
Tyler Isaac Craven
Payton Trinity Creel
Alyssa Lee Crego
Allyson Lynn Crews
Alyssa Nicole Crews
Baylie Catherine Cruce
Amy Lynn Cullen



Ashlyn Rachel Daughtry
Kaylee Faith Davis
Payton Renee Davis
William Michael Davis
Jackson Keith Deese
Alanah Mae Dohm
Gabriel Daniel Drake
Madison Lyn Driggers



Hayden Alexis Dunlap
Olivia Bree Dutton
Sydney Shane English
Daniel Curtis Farmer III
Kelly Jean Finklea
Emma Jean Fowler
Kiarra Elise Frailey
Elli Selena Cohn Fuqua



Kayliana Marie Galloway
Benjamin Joseph Galtieri
Dillon Joseph Garner
Gabriel A. Gates-Hernandez
Brianna Kaylan Geigle
Logan Sidney Gilmour
Avery Xander Glisson
Peyton Jace Goins



Madison Alyn Green
Reese Camryn Green
Blaine Scott Gregory
Hannah Elizabeth Guess
Zoey Emily Guest
Nathan Christian Guting
Tyler Roy Hall
Seth Richard Lee Hansen

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Kailee Marie Hatcher
 Blake Daniel Herrin
 Braden William Hibbs
 Victoria Jade Higgins
 Tatum Prayle Holman
 Alex Francisco Holmes
 Elizabeth Louise Holton
 Grace Leigh Horne



Hannah Elizabeth Howell
 Ronnie Howard Hurst IV
 Keerataya Jeeraorn
 Austin McGuire Johnson
 Caleb James Keeton
 Mariah Ann Kinard
 Caitlyn Mashell Kirk
 Christian Mason R. Kirkland



Matthew Anthony Koller
 Greyson Lane Kornegay
 Brylie Brooke Lane
 Calista Elizabeth Law
 Hayley Abbagail Lawn
 Sophia Heaven Lee
 Alexis Daniele Legare
 Paris Nicole Lloyd



Sydney Denise Lowder
 Madison Grace Lowe
 Destiny Raven Ludwig
 Gauge Rhylan Macomber
 Deagan Carson Manasco
 Steven Allen Manning
 Madison Lynne Maynard
 Victoria Nichole McCormack



Alezia Denise McCoy
 Connor Dylan McEldowney
 Ryann Marie McGinley
 Michael Glenn McSwain III
 Skyler Raylynn Meeks
 Sailor Paris Menendez
 Tyler Austin Michael
 Reese Ayanna Miles



Brandon Ryan Miller
 Javian Xavier Milton-Brown
 Earl Louis Moore
 Lucas Richard Moore
 Damian Aidan Morgan
 Emma Rose Murphy
 Blake Charles Neeley
 Landon Thomas Neu



Madison Eloise Newton
 Holly Marie Norfleet
 Shyanne Madison Padgett
 Hannah Susanne Paske
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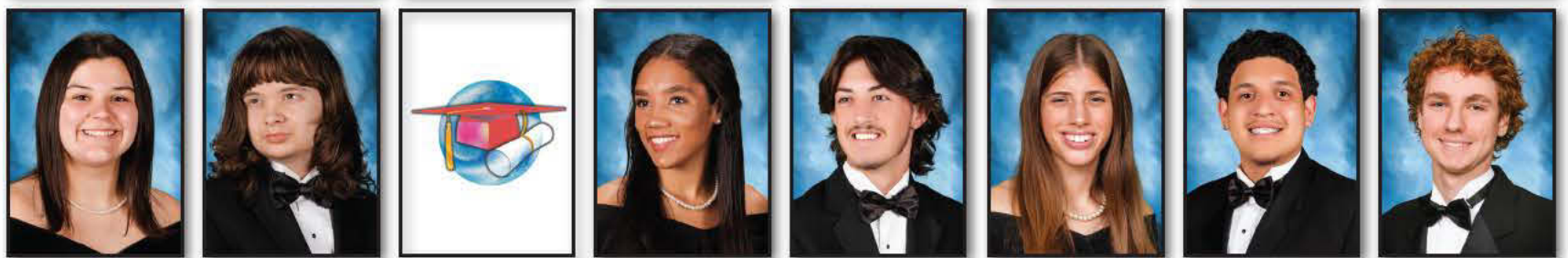
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 Jacob Lee Peterson
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 Braden Jeffery Phillips
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 Joshua Alan Pless
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 Wesley Blake Ricks
 Olivia Ann Risinger
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West Nassau High School Class of 2024



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Connor Joseph Scaff
Chase Allen Scarbrough
Kailey M. Schlotterbeck
Zachary Josiah Segro
Zachary James Sharpe
Rylee Elizabeth Shaw
Alexis Nicolette Shearin



Tucker Addison Shuler
Canyon Joseph Simon
Cheyenne Ashley Sledge
Amelya Hope Smith
Luke Conner Snowden
Landon Ryan Someillan
Carleigh Ann Somers
Maey Elizabeth Speegle



Gage Tyler Spivey
Hanna Lea Starling
Jasmine Lafon Stoddard
Arthur James Strickland
Damien Silas Stroschein
Madison Ciara Stuart
Kaitlyn Marie Studt
Kaleb Manuel Studt



Peyton Shelby Studt
Hanna Lee Sunstrom
Brendan Andrew Temple
Hannah Hope Toy
Maddox William Tucker
Grace Isabella Turnage
Kyle James Vanasten, Jr.
Kenneth Edward Velasquez



Morgan Leigh Vienneau
Jennifer Nicole Walker
Bradyn Michael Walsky
Alexander A. Waltman
Daniel Monroe Ward
Carson Zane Watts
Angelia Love Weeks
Kirstin Lynn Welch



Kelzea E. N. Westberry
Ryland Thomas Weyburn
Jocelyn Ariana Wiley
Mack Coltrane Williams
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Caleb Lee Winkle
Chloe Brooke Womack
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Emma is a straight A 6th grade student at Callahan Middle School where she is involved in BETA Club, FBLA and community service projects when she's not riding. She will attend the 2024 NBHA World Finals in Perry, GA as a NBHA FL02 Qualified Youth

Emma Gardner, 12, of Bryceville is shown on her horse Best Bet Jet; and Vaeda Walker, 7, of Callahan, is shown on her horse Sheza Streakin Fast, recently traveled to Oklahoma City, OK to compete at the Better Barrel Races World Finals XXI. They had the privilege of attending the finals in Oklahoma as first year BBR members. They competed in 2 multi day races and a youth race.

Emma and Vaeda compete most weekends at BBR, GTBRA, NBHA



rider this summer. Her proud parents are Dean and Heather Gardner.

Vaeda is a straight A student, who is homeschooled by her grandmother Jana Wilson, through a local co-op. She also plays 6 instruments when she's not riding. Her proud mother is Katie Walker.

Congratulations ladies!



Storehouse Volunteers

Bryceville Elementary School students volunteered at the Storehouse of Northeast Florida, assisting the local food pantry in preparing for an upcoming food distribution. BES students sorted and bagged canned goods and other non-perishable items, putting the month's resiliency theme of volunteering into action! It was an incredible opportunity to apply what our students are learning in the classroom! We are so proud of our students and their families for embracing the opportunity and giving back to our local community!



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DAVID WALKER BUCHANAN



David Walker "Big Dave" Buchanan, 76, of Hilliard, entered the presence of Jesus May 7, 2024. He was born October 29, 1947 in Jacksonville, to the late David H. (Buck) Buchanan, Jr. and Martha Lillian (Great) Walker Buchanan. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in U.S. History with a minor in English from Georgia Southern College in 1973. He served in the US Army in Vietnam, then ran his family's business, and went on to be the Director of Transportation for the Nassau County School Board. He also served as the Mayor of Hilliard for 18 years. Big Dave loved his family, reading, guitars, golfing, riding his motorcycle with his buds, and "coffee time" at Five.5 Grill. He was a very generous man and was a huge influence on his community and those around him. He was a charter member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church where he faithfully and joyfully served for many years as a Ruling Elder. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his wife Joyce Ann (Mimi) Buchanan; and his sister Melanie Buchanan Page Hoover.

David is survived by his children Marella (Dallis) Hunter, Hucks (Elizabeth) Buchanan and Ben (Sarah) Buchanan; nine grandchildren Isaac, Lydia, Hannah, Luke, Molly, Walker, Noah (Bri), Anna and Sara; two siblings Gary (Ginger) Buchanan and Sara (Don) Michaels; and a host of nieces and nephews and other relatives.

The family received friends Thursday, May 9 at the Buchanan home. The funeral service was held Friday, May 10 at the First Baptist Church of Hilliard, with Pastor Jesse Pickett and Pastor Ryan Mason officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to The Fisher House in Gainesville: www.gainesvillefisherhouse.org/

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

OBITUARIES

Road Baptist Church.


He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Cynthia C. Johns; a son and daughter-in-law Christopher and Amanda Johns; two grandchildren Channing Johns and Brien Rosen; five brothers Mike (Brenda) Johns, Sam (Cindy) Johns, Tony (Kari) Johns, Ted (Becky) Johns and Randy Johns; and many extended family members and numerous friends.

A celebration of life service was held Monday, May 20 at River Road Baptist Church. Memorialization will be by cremation.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

MICHAEL WILLIAM LEWIS



Micheal "Mickey" William Lewis, 81, of Callahan, passed away January 4, 2020, following a long difficult battle with a rare form of non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. He fought a good fight, as he always did with any adversity in his life.


Mickey was born May 19, 1938 in Jacksonville to Johnnie Katrine Hilton and Royce Raphael Lewis, Sr. He was raised in Jacksonville and attended Lee High School, where he was a member of the track team and recognized for often walking up and down the stairs in school on his hands almost as often as he on his feet. Along this time is when he picked up his love of body building. He did that for several years and entered several competitions throughout the state, becoming well known in the body building community. He won "Best Arms" in the Mr. Florida competition and was a runner up overall. Most of the competitions he entered he placed in a runner up position.

Mickey was a proud member of the Local 234 Plumbers and Pipefitters Union for over 50 years, where he made many lifelong friendships. He was also very proud to be a 32 Degree Mason. He also proudly served his country in the United States Army Reserves for 8 years. Mickey loved turkey hunting. He spent a lot of wonderful time with Frank, Gary and Buz, out in the woods camping and hunting. He also had a love of

radio control airplanes; building them from scratch and flying them with his brother-in-law Al and his friend Ken. Mickey was a good, honest man and lived by his word. He will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Royce, Jr. and Jack; and a sister Sylvia Grimm.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Geraldine "Geri" Lewis; his pride and joy daughter Holli and favorite son-in-law Sean Jarrett; two grandchildren Taylor and Hannah; as well as many nieces and nephews and the best gift ever, his fur baby, Baby. A private memorial service was held.

DAVID H. PETREE



David H. Petree, 86, of Callahan, passed away peacefully May 6, 2024, at Jacksonville Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. He was born April 28, 1938 in Jacksonville, to the late Heaton Crews Petree and Jewel Hodges Petree. David grew up in Callahan and was proud to call it home. Over the years, David had numerous jobs and owned several small businesses. David loved the Lord and enjoyed visiting and worshipping at local churches around town. He also enjoyed barbequing for the neighborhood and local churches. David was preceded in death by his parents; wife Rosetta Petree; and brother John Petree.


David leaves behind his sister Susan (Robert) Jones; nephews Jon Jon (Jessica) Petree and Bret (Ashley) Jones; nieces Jennifer Lathrop and Carly (Casey) Jones; cousins and other extended family members.

A celebration of David's life was held Tuesday, May 14 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Shane Stutzman officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery where military honors were rendered. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

LOLA IRENE ROSEN




Lola Irene Rosen, 63, of Callahan, passed away Sunday, May 5, 2024, at Community Hospice in Fernandina Beach. She was born February 10, 1961 in Miami, to the late Clyde Moore and

Edna Allen Richardson. Lola was a crossing guard in Duval County for 27 years. She volunteered in the Duval County School System for 30 years. She was a member of Whitehouse Full Gospel Church where she had a sign language ministry.

She is survived by her loving husband, Steven Rosen; five children Mark Drummond, Tamatha (Shawn) Stanfield, Illauna (Thomas) Virts, Gregory (Ashley) Blackmon, Jr. and Amanda (Christopher) Rosen; three sisters Linda Moore, Laura (Bert) Chollet and Lucy (Donald) Littleton; eight grandchildren Brianna Stanfield, Marcus (Marissa) Stanfield, Trey Virts, Dominic Virts, Wyatt Virts, Rilah O'Leary, Benjamin Blackmon and Brien Rosen; great-granddaughter Oakley Stanfield; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 1 at 11 a.m. at Whitehouse Full Gospel Church, 417 Maple Avenue, Jacksonville, with Shelia Houston officiating.

JULIE MARIE ROZIER



Julie Marie Rozier, 62, of Bryceville, passed away April 16, 2024, at her residence with her loving family by her side. She was born April 5, 1962 in Jacksonville, to the late J.D. Hughes and Mary Evelyn Gilley Hughes. Julie was raised in Baldwin and relocated to Bryceville in 1991. In the early 1980s, Julie met her best friend and forever companion, Carroll William Rozier, and they were happily married. Julie was a devoted wife, mother, sister, grandmother and friend. She enjoyed fishing, sewing, gardening, shopping, cooking, and spending time at the beach. But most of all, Julie enjoyed spending precious time and making memories with her family. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Julie was preceded in death by her husband Carroll William Rozier; parents; and brother James Earl Hughes.


Julie is survived by her loving sons Chris Hughes, Derek (Dana) Rozier, all of Bryceville and Kenneth Rozier Gill; sisters Sarah Howell of Folkston and Jessie Dover of Jacksonville; four grandchildren Bryce, Cameron, Aiden and Delainey; along with many extended family members and friends.

A celebration of Julie's life will be held Friday, May 17 at 12 p.m. at River Road Baptist Church with a reception to follow.

Arrangements by Ferreira Funeral Services, Macclenny.

Please leave condolences at: www.ferreirafuneralservices.com.

CHRISTOPHER BRIEN JOHNS



Christopher Brien Johns, 61, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, May 9, 2024, at his home. He was born January 26, 1963 in Fernandina Beach, to the late Marquard Joseph "Jack" Johns and Betty Jean Lee Johns. He was an avid Florida Gator fan and loved bowling with his friends. He was a member of River

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Nancy Lee Bethea

This fictional column features an inside look into the lives of John and Bethany McNair, a couple who live and work in Nassau County. The McNairs have three children, John Jr., 19, Brianna, 15, and Jacob, 5. Mr. McNair is a transplant from Chicago, Illinois, who teaches art. Mrs. McNair is a Nassau County native who works as a forester and has deep roots here.

I've never been a big reader. I mean, I like books and all, but given a choice, I will always go outside and be active instead of passively reading a book. My husband, John, on the other hand, is a book fiend. He actually taught all three of our kids to read before they started school. I still remember John, Jr., sitting on my husband's lap, listening to books like "Corduroy," "Goodnight, Moon," and "Library Lion." John changed his voice for each character and sometimes, he made whatever stuffed animal was nearby come to life during story time.

In any case, we all ended up at our local library last Saturday. Earlier that morning, we visited a local arts and farmers' market because John is thinking of opening a booth where he can sell his art. We ate an early lunch at the market and were going to head home. Brianna, our teenage daughter, then asked, "Can we go to the library? There's a DVD I want to get." A teenager asking to go to a library? Seriously? I could tell John loved the idea, so we immediately loaded into the truck and headed to the library. I remember libraries being quiet, studious places with old ladies who constantly shush everyone. That is not what I experienced that morning!

As soon as we entered the building, we heard a cacophony of strange music.



Naturally Nassau

Learning at the Library



It happened to be a group of senior citizens learning to play harmonicas. The melody I picked out sounded a little bit like a mixture of "Stairway to Heaven" and "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now." "Who needs hard rock when you've got soft aluminum right here!" John joked.

A maker space was set up in another part of the library where families were creating clay sculptures and using 3-D printers. We also saw a balloon artist shaping animals for kids and a group of writers reading poetry out loud. Needless to say, this library was busy and LOUD! "Cool," Bri said as she took it all in. She then waved at a friend from school and walked over to talk to her.

Jacob, our youngest, immediately headed into the Children's Area where a librarian was reading a story to a bunch of kids seated on the floor. "Is it always this busy on Saturdays?" I asked the librarian at the circulation desk. "It's a new program called 'Learning at the Library,'" she said with a smile as she handed me a brochure. "We have new

activities every Saturday morning for the next few months."

"Let me see that," John said, taking the brochure from my hand. He scanned it, then said, "You do this every Saturday?" "Yes, we're hoping to bring in local artists and writers to share what they do in the community," the librarian said.

By then, other people were in line behind us. The librarian excused herself and started helping them. "This is so cool," John said. "Maybe I could do a drawing class here."

Just then, a very excited Jacob ran up to us. "Come on, Daddy! They're about to read another story!" He pointed to the children's area. "And, here..." He handed me ten picture books in a basket. "Can you check these out, please?"

John left with Jacob, while I got back in line to check out the books.

Bri then dropped three DVDs and two books into the basket. "The 80s were so cool, Mom! I just love the aesthetic!" I chuckled realizing she had picked "21 Jump Street," "The Cosby Show," and "Growing Pains." Then, I saw the books she picked. One was from the "Babysitters Club" series and the others were "Goosebumps" books. Really? That's what I read when I was a teenager!

As I waited in line, I noticed a display of bestsellers. I walked over and picked up John Grisham's latest book. It looked like a good story, so I added it to my basket. Then, I saw a book on photography, and I dropped it in. When

I turned to get back in line, I saw a table with genealogy resources. I had wanted to do some research into our family history for a while. I grabbed a couple of fliers and got back in line wondering when libraries became so cool?

"I can't believe the library is this busy on a Saturday," I said to the librarian when it was my turn.

"We're trying to engage the community," she said. "It's what these 'Learning at the Library' Saturdays are all about. We'd like to do it every Saturday, we just need more people to lead classes," she said.

I thought for a moment, then I said, "Well, my husband is an artist, and I'm a forester. Could you use us?"

She nodded and handed me a card to fill out. "Please, get this back to us as soon as possible. We're still scheduling classes for next month."

I smiled, took the card and all of our books and DVDs and headed to the children's area. When I got there, I saw John and Jacob. Story time had just ended.

"That was so fun!" Jacob said as he skipped toward me. "Can we come back next week?"

Bri waved goodbye to her friend and joined us. "Coolest place ever, Mom," she said.

Then, we all walked outside and got into the truck. Until next time, and looking forward to next Saturday, we'll be learning and living our Naturally Nassau life.

Nancy Lee Bethea is a local writer who leads the Creative Writing Department at LaVilla Middle School of the Arts in Jacksonville. She is married to Stan Bethea and they live in Callahan with their teenage daughter and their rescue cat.



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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.

Monday, May 6

James Harvey Smith, III, Callahan: Disorderly Intoxication
 Bobbie Jean Wade, 43, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

Wednesday, May 8

Ronald Clell Carter, 39, Hilliard: Battery on Law Enforcement Officer; Firefighter; EMT, etc.
 Fisher Douglas George, 22, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine

Saturday, May 11

Gary Jerome Voll, 61, Callahan: Resist without Violence; Driving an Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Tag Not Assigned to Vehicle; Driving with Permanent Suspended/Revoked Driver's License

FSCJ Announces New Mascot

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) is excited to announce the new official mascot is the Manta Ray. The Manta Ray, one of the top three finalists that received the most votes, was first announced with a video during the annual Commencement Ceremony. The news was met with much celebration from the attending graduates, families, friends, faculty and staff, and graduates received FSCJ Manta Ray rally towels after accepting their diplomas.

Beginning in October 2023, the public was invited to vote on their favorite mascots from a list of 25. Close to 9,000 votes and 864 write-in names were received, helping to narrow the options down to the top three: Kraken, Manta Ray and Sea Dragon. The public voting window was open to select the winner between the finalists from January 17 to February 23, 2024, garnering nearly 20,000 votes. "This has been an exciting process, and we cannot thank the community enough for their involvement," said College President Dr. John Avendano. "We often say FSCJ is 'the community's college' so we wanted to be sure we selected a mascot that everyone would connect with and help us build on that energy. The Manta Ray was a perfect choice,



and we cannot wait to see the symbol on shirts, hats, uniforms, signage and more."

Following extensive research, design and two public voting phases, the College is beginning to incorporate the Manta Ray across FSCJ, FSCJ Athletics and the full college community. Merchandise is being ordered and will be available for purchase through campus bookstores and online. Uniforms for the College's athletics teams and a mascot costume are in development and will be in use for the 2024-25 season. A name for it will be discussed in the near future, following public rollout.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Charleston Adeline Franklin

Brenton and Baylee Franklin, of Folkston, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Charleston Adeline Franklin. Charleston was born March 18, 2024 at 10:22 a.m. at Baptist Hospital Jacksonville. She weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and measured 20.5 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Michael and Vickie Franklin of Hilliard.

Maternal grandparents are Brad and Autumn Dover of Hilliard.

Proud great-grandparents are Brenda Conner of Hilliard and the late Alton Conner; Romy and Sharon Dover of Callahan; Dewey and Theresa Franklin of Hilliard and the late Bernice Franklin; and Floyd and Mary Vanzant of Hilliard.

Charleston was welcomed home by her sister, Carolina Autumn Franklin.



Happy 1st Birthday

Rowan Elijah Clarence Cooper

Rowan Elijah Clarence Cooper will celebrate his first birthday May 16. Rowan will celebrate on his birthday with a party held in his honor at his Nonnie's house with his cousins Blake and Drew and lots of family and friends joining in the fun. His proud mother is Erin Yvette Cooper of Callahan.

Proud grandparents are Walter Clarence Cooper, Jr. of Callahan; and Robyn Yvette Cooper of Jacksonville.

Proud great-grandmother is Jerusha Cornelious of Jacksonville; and the late Edith Marie Jones and Walter Clarence Cooper, Sr.



Charlotte René Lowe

Adam Blake & Taylor René Lowe, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Charlotte René Lowe. Charlotte was born May 3, 2024 at 9:38 p.m. at her home. She weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Paternal grandparents are the late Perry and Kathy Jo Lowe.

Maternal grandfather is Victor James Eibach of Jacksonville and the late Janet Darlene Elliott.

Proud great-grandparents are Annabelle Paisley; Patrick Eibach; Robert and Paula Elliott; Elva Darlene Gibson; the late Peggy Joyce Waters; and the late Billy and Dora Butler.

Charlotte was welcomed home by her siblings

Kylie Brooke, Conor Gregory, Madelyn Mae, Josiah Blake, William Elijah and the late Skye Connelly.



Happy 1st Birthday

Remi Adeline VanGorder

Remi Adeline VanGorder celebrated her first birthday May 14. She celebrated her special milestone with a fun party held in her honor at Calvary Baptist Church with her brother Cooper and lots of family and friends joining in the fun!

Her proud parents are Matt and Alexis VanGorder of Callahan! Congratulations!



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