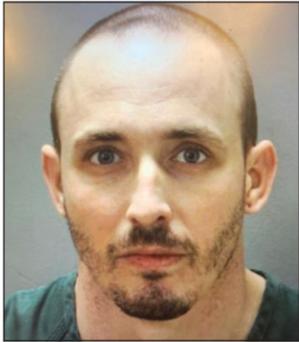


“PRAY IN THE SPIRIT AT ALL TIMES WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS, ASKING FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED. TO DO THIS YOU MUST ALWAYS BE READY AND NEVER GIVE UP. ALWAYS PRAY...” - EPHESIANS 6:18

Death Penalty Recommended for McDowell

Last week, a Nassau County jury has recommended the death penalty for Patrick McDowell for the murder of 29-year-old Nassau County Deputy Joshua Moyers. In March of 2023, McDowell plead guilty to First-Degree Murder; Injuring a Police Dog; and eight counts of Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer. The Honorable James H. Daniel will formally sentence McDowell at a later date.

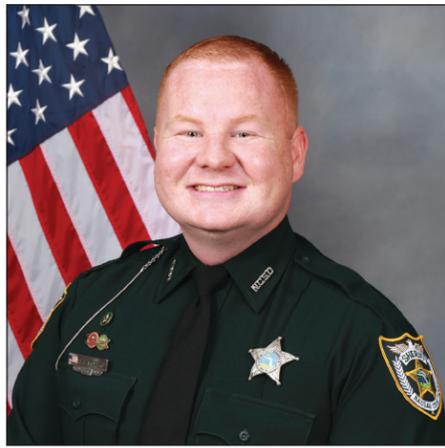


pronounced deceased days later.

Gale turned herself in to the police shortly after while McDowell abandoned the van, armed himself, and hid in the woods at the end of Sandy Ford Road. Officers from across Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia

responded to assist in the manhunt. In the early morning hours of September 24, 2021, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office SWAT Team along with NCSO deputies utilized JSO K9 Chaos to track McDowell. The K9 handler released Chaos, and McDowell fired two shots, injuring K9 Chaos. Officers returned fire. It wouldn't be until September 28 that McDowell was finally captured with the help of numerous agencies and JSO K9 Huk. During the penalty phase prior to closing arguments, McDowell took the stand and confirmed the State's case admitting weeks before he planned to kill any law enforcement member who attempted to arrest him. On the night he killed Moyers, McDowell admitted he lured him to a dark,

secluded area to carry this out. "We thank the jury for their time and diligent attention to this most important matter. Their recommendation See 'Death Penalty' on page 2



secluded area to carry this out.

"We thank the jury for their time and diligent attention to this most important matter. Their recommendation

See 'Death Penalty' on page 2

Tragedy Strikes West Nassau High School Warrior Tribe



Hannah McKelvy

Dawn S. West

On the eve of one of the special nights of your high school experience, the Junior-Senior Prom, a junior from West Nassau High School, was in a tragic accident on US 301 on Saturday, April 27. The tragedy doesn't end there, on Sunday evening, April 28, a WNHS senior was fatally injured in another automobile accident.

According to reports, Hannah McKelvy, 16, received life-threatening injuries in an accident that occurred Saturday, April 27 on US 301 near Bryceville. Hannah remains in UF Health with serious injuries. Continue to pray for her and her family.

Sunday, April 28, West Nassau senior, Sydney Weiscopf, 17, was fatally injured in an accident off of CR 121. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, around 9:50 p.m. Sunday, the 16-year-old driver of a pickup truck was traveling southbound on CR 121 at Batten Road. Sydney, 17, of Bryceville, driving a SUV, was traveling northbound on CR 121 at Batten Road. The driver of the pickup truck failed to keep a single lane and entered into the northbound lane, directly into the path of Sydney's vehicle. The left front portion of the truck collided with the left front portion of the SUV. The driver of the truck was transported to the hospital with minor injuries. Sydney



Sydney Weiscopf

was pronounced deceased at the scene by Nassau County Fire Rescue. No criminal charges have been filed at this time, pending completion of the accident investigation.

Sydney was an excellent student, graduating a year early. She attended West Nassau High School until January. She then switched to Nassau Virtual School to complete her education. She will be awarded her diploma for her many achievements. She left her mark on those she came in contact with. Following is a post from Sydney's mother Sherry: There are no words but then there are many. You (Sydney) drove me crazy because you were so head-strong and did things your way. Your Dad and I are not sure what to do now. Our baby girl is gone. We love you! 17 years wasn't enough but we are so glad we had you those years. Sydney left our house to go pick up a friend. She was less than 2 miles from our house when the truck heading toward her crossed into her lane and hit the left side of her vehicle. She was wearing her seatbelt. Please pray for the boy that hit her. He has to live with this the rest of his life. Yes, we will live the rest of ours without Sydney, but she is not in any physical or mental pain.

We ask your prayers for these families, friends, students and administration during this difficult time.

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A Word From the Publisher



Last Friday, April 26, my dad celebrated his 92nd birthday, and what a blessing that is! I am so thankful and blessed to still have both of my parents, at 92, and not too far away from me. As each year passes, we seem to grow closer. Daddy was born April 26, 1932, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and he still remains a hard core Arkansas Razorback. Daddy played football, basketball and baseball in high school and knew from those days he wanted to be a coach and teacher. He joined the US Air Force following high school and began his military and college career. Although Daddy was in the military, he made his way home, married my mom, and the two set off into the sunset to also begin their lives. I may be wrong but I think he achieved his Master's Degree around the time I was born as the fifth and final child.

Daddy couldn't have chosen a better career. He excelled as a coach and is still respected everywhere he goes. Even though he was coaching and teaching, he still found time to continue to play sports when he got a chance. He played softball for years, one of those games separating his shoulder. He played in a men's basketball league, one of those games got elbowed in the jaw and broke his jaw. I must say his children (me included) kind of enjoyed his jaw being wired together for a few weeks! But that never stopped him...he still

loved the game and still does. About seven years ago, one of his former 'playmates' called and asked him to play in the 80 years and up league. My mom spoke up quickly and said, "No!"

It's amazing how many crazy memories I have growing up with my dad trying to teach us to play sports. Somehow, when we played with him, he always changed the rules. I've always said he never played fair. A simple game of pepper on the beach turned into a competition; throwing the Frisbee was always me chasing the Frisbee he threw! Such great memories and so thankful for them all!

Daddy began his teaching and coaching career in Homerville, Georgia, where many of his students and players still keep up with him. Everywhere he has been he has certainly left his mark. Recently, his was in Walmart in Kingsland and a young lady yelled, "Hey Coach Stearn!" He quickly turned around and she was coming to get a hug from him. She asked if she could take a selfie with him and post it on her Facebook. She said my friends are going to be mad they didn't see you. It is random for us to go anywhere with my parents and someone not come up and speak to them. They have quite a legacy.

Above all, my dad is a Christian man and he loves the Lord with all his heart. He continues to teach his senior men's Sunday school class and loves those men so much. He calls them each week to make sure they are okay. He carries their burdens and ministers to them. I've always had to share my dad with many other people (players, students, etc.) and it makes me smile each time he sees one. But, he has always and will always be my dad and for that I am thankful! Happy Birthday Daddy! I love you! Brat

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

Death Penalty

Continued from page 1

recognizes Josh's service in life as well as the cold and calculated manner of his death. Josh's family, fiancée, friends, and fellow officers have suffered immense pain from his senseless murder. I hope today's end of the penalty trial may begin the healing they deserve," said State Attorney Melissa Nelson.

The case was investigated by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office with

assistance from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, ATF Jacksonville, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, among many others. The case was prosecuted by Chief Assistant Mark Caliel and Circuit Court Director Chris Huband.

Leadership Nassau Class 24 Applications Now Available

Over the course of 23 years, Leadership Nassau has grown to become the most exclusive leadership development program in our community. Leadership Nassau provides participants with an in-depth understanding of the various socio-economic aspects that directly affect our county and region. During the 10-month program, students engage in activities that connect them with local leaders, while simultaneously helping them form a life-long bond with fellow classmates.

More than 380 members of the Nassau County community have

participated in Leadership Nassau, with graduates ranging from Circuit Judges to small business owners and everything in between. The program is open to anyone interested in participating.

For more information and to receive a Class 24 application, email the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce at info@NassauCountyFLChamber.com or call (904) 261-3248. Interested parties may also download a copy of the application on our website at www.NassauCountyFLChamber.com. The deadline to apply is Friday, June 28, 2024, by 5 p.m.

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.

In the Kitchen... Easy Enchiladas

<p>2 (16 oz.) jars prepared salsa 1 lb. ground beef 1 (15.5 oz.) jar prepared salsa con queso</p>	<p>20 (8 inch) flour tortillas 1 (8 oz.) package shredded Cheddar-Monterey Jack cheese blend</p>
---	--

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish, and pour the salsa into the bottom of the dish. Set aside. Cook and stir the ground beef in a skillet over medium heat for about 10 minutes, until meat is browned and crumbly. Drain the grease from the beef, and add the salsa con queso to the skillet, stirring to mix well. Place about 2 tablespoons of the beef mixture down the center of each tortilla, roll the tortillas, and place them seam side down on top of the salsa in the baking dish. Sprinkle the shredded cheese on top of the enchiladas. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until the cheese is browned and the enchiladas are hot and bubbling.

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

WESTSIDE JOURNAL STAFF

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

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MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Wednesday, May 22 West Nassau High School Graduation 7 p.m. UNF Arena		Thursday, May 23 Hilliard Middle-Senior High School Graduation 6:30 p.m. Flashes Field	1 Callahan Garden Club 10 a.m. Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	2 Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m. National Day of Prayer	3 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	4
5	6 Pine Forest Alumni Meeting 5 p.m. Bethel A.M.E. Church Callahan Town Meeting 7 p.m.	7 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Westside Republicans 6 p.m. Hilliard Comm. Center NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch.	8 NAMI Support 12-1:30 p.m. Hilliard Journey Church Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	9	10 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging American Legion & Auxiliary Post 401 Hilliard 7 p.m.	11
 Mother's Day	13 WN Genealogical Society 10:30 a.m. Lions Club Country Star Quilt Guild 7 p.m. Anchor Church Ch. 154 Order of Eastern Star 7:30 pm @ Masonic Lodge	14 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	15 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library West Nassau High School SAC Meeting 3:15 p.m.	16 Food Giveaway @Callahan First Baptist 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Hilliard Town Meeting 7 p.m.	17 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging	18
19	20 Barnabas Food @NE FL Fairgrounds 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Westside Optimists 7 p.m. Lions Club Sons of Confederate Veterans 7 p.m. The Pig Callahan Town Meeting 7 p.m.	21 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church NARFE Nat'l Active & Retired Federal Employees 11 a.m. The Pig NAMI Family Support 6:30 - 8 p.m. Alachua Club, Fern. Bch.	22 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	23 Historical Society 6:30 p.m. @ Depot	24 NAMI Support 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fernandina Council on Aging  Last Day of School!	25 Memorial Day Rod Run 9 a.m. Callahan Methodist Church
26	 Memorial Day	28 Torah Club 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church Callahan Lions Club 7 p.m.	29 Free Community Dinner 5 p.m. Callahan Methodist Church PAL 6 p.m. Hilliard Library	30	31	

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I just wanted to share “Conservatives versus Liberals” verbalized by Bruce Randomness. “If a conservative is a vegan they don’t eat meat. If a liberal is a vegetarian or vegan, they want to ban meat products for everyone. I found if a conservative is gay, they live their life and respect other people’s choices. If a liberal is gay, they demand respect even if it has to be legislated. If a conservative is down and out in their situation, they think about how I can improve, how I can better where I’m at. If a liberal is down and out, they want someone to take care of them. It’s everybody else’s fault. If a conservative doesn’t like a talk show or a TikTok they simply switch channels or swipe up. A liberal, they are going to demand that that video be removed, that that talk show be canceled. If a conservative is a non-believer they simply don’t go to church. If a liberal is a non-believer, they think all religion should be removed from every facet of life. If a conservative believes he needs healthcare, he goes shopping for it or finds a job that’ll provide it. A liberal, they’re demanding that the rest of us pay for their healthcare. It should be universal. A conservative, realizes that they’re responsible for their emotions, their responses, their actions, their triggers. A liberal, they want to blame their triggers, their issues, their misfortunes on everyone

else. They never take responsibility. If a conservative reads this, he’s going to forward it to a few of his friends for a laugh. A liberal is going to try to get it deleted or taken down because they’re offended, they’re triggered.”

Case in point, I want to share a portion of a message I received at our office via the internet. I won’t share the person’s name that sent it to me, but at least she was brave enough to put her name with it. The following is the last paragraph of her triggered communication with me. “You write the stuff of horror stories, truly representative of what is wrong with our country. Bigoted, deceitful, fanatical and desperate to blame someone else for your own ignorance and moral failings. I hope that if you fall ill and are forced to spend your final years being cared for, by a commune full of vegan lesbians who only speak Spanish...but that’s JUST MY OPINION. An unwilling recipient of paper.”

All I can say is act like a conservative for once and just throw it in the trash. No one is forcing her to read a single word of Just My Opinion. Of course, I totally respect her right to have an opinion; we all have them and are blessed to be able to express them, as of now. However, with the liberal (communist) direction our country is charging toward, we may not have that freedom much longer.

As always...that’s just my opinion!

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Mill Creek Cemetery Association will hold a meeting and clean up Saturday, May 4 at 9 a.m. Make sure to bring your tools and gloves to work!

The Country Star Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of each month at The Anchor Church in Callahan at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

By opening your heart and home to a youth in Foster Care, you can help forge a lifetime of success and happiness for a child right here in Nassau. Your support can open a world of possibilities. Are you ready to learn more? Contact recruiter@fssnf.org or 904-421-5864 for information.

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

ARMS (Abuse Recovery Ministry Services) offers classes in your area where women will learn how to recognize, understand, and heal from issues of domestic abuse. We use biblical principles to encourage beliefs and behaviors that heal. Call 503-846-9284 or 866-262-9284 for specific locations and time.

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Toward God or Away from Him

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



In the first half of 1 Timothy 6, Paul warns Timothy of false teachers. He says they are unteachable, argumentative, envious, dissenting, slanderous, suspicious, and constantly bringing friction. Then starting in verse 11, Paul gives Timothy a better way. He says: *“But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses”* (1 Timothy 6:11-12, ESV).

In opposition to the false teachers, Timothy is charged to flee these things. He is not instructed to figure out these evils or to come up with a plan to counter-act them. He is given one instruction: FLEE. Hot foot it out of there, cut and run, dip, duck out, hit the road, split, beat feet, book it, vamoose, bolt, clear out. This is our call as well. When the enemy comes around tempting us to do the wrong thing, we are to get out of there.

But leaving is not enough, we must *“pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.”* Pursuing righteousness is no easy task. We must choose to *“Fight the good fight of faith.”*

Lastly, we must take hold of the eternal life to which we were called. Many of us have made a profession of faith. Many of us have gone down to an altar called and began our eternal life with Christ. But have we taken hold of this eternal life? Lots of times we think of eternal life as a future event, but eternal life begins the moment we say yes to Jesus. Eternal life is not something that starts after our last breath. If we know Jesus, we are in the eternal life. So, let’s take hold of it. Because if we are not moving toward God, we are moving away from Him. Either we are distracted away from Jesus or we are *“pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.”* Which one describes you? What are you prepared to do about it?

Revitalize Health & Body Holds Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held recently with the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, celebrating the Grand Opening of Revitalize Health & Body, located at 542176 US-1, Unit B, in Callahan, 904-942-8106 for more information. Visit the website at: www.revitalizehealthandbody.com where you can book your appointment. In the center of the photo is shop owner Dr. Brooke Leone.

Pentecostal Assemblies Welcome Associate Pastor



The Pentecostal Assemblies are happy to welcome their new Associate Pastor Chris Caudill and his wife Nikki. The church, Pentecostal Assemblies Old Country Church, is located at 37299 Oxford Street in Hilliard. The Caudills plan to bring their talents and gifts to bless the church and support Pastor Eddie Hadden.

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CHURCH NEWS

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, will hold an INDOOR YARD SALE, Friday & Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Furniture, dishes, clothes and more!

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, would like to invite all men to our Men's Prayer meeting held the 1st Monday of month & the 3rd Saturday of the month, both at 6 p.m.

REJOICE WITH US!

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
Thursdays @ Noon
Sunday School @ 9:30 am
Sundays @ 10:30 am

Pastor Walter C. Cooper, Jr.



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Buy the Kids an Experience... Not More "Stuff"

Tired of giving the same ole' stuff that the kids don't want or need, only to have it forgotten within days? Why not buy them an "experience" that will create a memory of a lifetime? On Saturday, May 18, Extreme Outdoors will host a "Children's Outdoor Adventure Day." This event will be held in Hilliard and introduce your child/grandchild to a variety of outdoor activities. They will learn in a non-competitive, safe environment.

The event will offer beginner classes in: Archery, Kayaking, Fishing, Swimming (w/lifeguard), Camping 101, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Outdoor Crafts, Pie Iron Cooking, and an Air Gun Range. Your child will pick 4 classes he/she would like to participate in. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at approximately 4 p.m., ages 6-14 years old are welcome. We ask that a parent attend with the child throughout



the entire event. The cost is \$45.00 per child, which includes their lunch and a drink. Parents can buy their lunches for \$12 each. There will also be an informative talk at lunch by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Aquatic/Marine unit.

Pre-registration is required for this event. Please contact Lori Jones at (904) 738-3948 to register and select the classes your child would like to attend.

WNHS Cadet Awarded Scholarship

West Nassau High School senior and Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Cadet, Alanah Doham, recently earned a \$1,000 college scholarship from the Nassau County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The scholarship recognized Cadet Doham's scholastic aptitude, military knowledge and leadership potential.

The MOAA scholarship was presented by Nassau County MOAA Chapter JROTC Coordinator LTC Gene Kilcawley, USA (Ret) and Chapter VP CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (Ret) to Cadet Doham at a recent awards ceremony in Yulee. The ceremony recognized and highlighted the impressive achievements of the WNHS JROTC Cadets. Cadet Doham plans to attend Florida State College in Jacksonville following graduation from



West Nassau High School.

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization and the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community. For more information on the Nassau County Chapter of MOAA, visit: www.nassaumoaa.org.

Living Financially Free

Yvette Outler

What's More Important Than Being Debt Free?

Hip, Hip, Hooray! You have worked your way to becoming debt free with Dave Ramsey's seven baby steps, and you are beginning to build wealth and give (number seven baby step). You are now able to live and give like nobody else. You have paid off the stack of credit cards. You sent your final, payoff, check to American Express and you feel one hundred pounds lighter. You fought your way to the end of paying off your huge student loan debt and you can finally breathe.

You thought you would never get your truck paid off, but after two years of working a part time job and throwing your extra income towards your debt you have the title in hand, and it is a beautiful feeling! You have your six-month fully funded emergency savings account stocked and ready to go. You thought you would never make it, but your perseverance paid off, literally and figuratively! You have fifteen percent of your income going into your Roth IRA and you can sleep a little better at night knowing you have a plan for your retirement.

You have successfully begun depositing money towards your two kids' college education in a 529 plan and you are delighted that they will not have it as hard as you. Today you paid off your mortgage. You owe nothing but yearly taxes at this point. You are ecstatic and threw a mortgage burning party.



Congratulations you have finished the 7 baby steps: 1) Save \$1,000.00 for your starter emergency fund. 2) Pay off all debt (except the house) using the debt snowball. 3) Save 3-6 months of expenses in a fully funded emergency fund. 4) Invest 15% of your household income in retirement. 5) Save for your children's college fund. 6) Pay off your home early. 7) Build wealth and give.

According to the world's standard you are set. But according to the Bible, if you do all of this without a relationship with Jesus Christ you are spiritually bankrupt. The thing that is more important than being debt free is being free from your sins. Jesus grants you forgiveness. Believe in Him, confess your sins and give your life over to Him.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36

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

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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.

Presidential Oversight

Dear Editor,
 One of the worst things that ever afflicted the country was when Public Service became a lucrative occupation. It opened the door for greed, graft, pay offs, fraud and increasing avenues to safely accumulate wealth illegally. President Biden's approval of billions allocated to the I.R.S. foreign countries and social programs in the absence of any discernible oversight is probably lining politico's pockets, while more than 75% of Americans are struggling to put food on the table.

A member of Biden's immediate family is on trial for alleged corrupt use of power that funneled untold amounts of money to the Biden family. Biden's Environmental Program is a hoax. After three years of its supposed implementation, 44% of Americans are breathing polluted air. Democratic Social Programs are an institutionalized means to rob the American people.

When Biden was sworn in, he took an oath "to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" That means you. Since taking office, has he preserved the economic integrity he found? The majority of Americans have less income, savings and investment ability to purchase a home because of unabated inflation and high interest rates. Do you feel protected? With wars raging in three countries and threatening escalation to other lands, the reality of mass destruction is coming closer to home,

Do you feel defended by Biden's ability to influence world leaders in defense of our country? It has become increasingly clear they don't listen to him, like he's a joke. Impeachment is not enough! He has failed to uphold an oath he solemnly swore to and, in effect, betrayed every American. As a result, we don't trust the government. Standing by while a dysfunctional Senate and House let criminal renegades off with a slap on the wrist must no longer be tolerated. When are we going to get out of our easy chairs and start

making demands on our legislators?

As Tiny Tim so succinctly put it, "God Bless Us, One and All." We are going to need it for sure.

B. R. Mc Connell

Thank You!

Dear Editor,
 What an AWESOME community we live in! The Gardening Club of Hilliard would like to thank all of you that came out, on April 6, to support our plant sale. We really appreciated your patronage. Everyone went home with a variety of flowers, vegetables and herbs. A big thank you to Mr. Bobby Franklin for the use of his property and to Mr. Cody Hobbs for his support. Last but not least Powells Nursery helped to make this the great event that it was.

The Gardening Club of Hilliard was formed by local residents sharing an interest in gardening and adding beauty to our town. Today our members are still enthusiastic about the magic of growing plants. The aim of our club is to promote the love of gardening in Hilliard.

If you share an interest in plants, please join us on the second Tuesday of every month at 11 am at the Bethany Episcopal Church on HWY 108, across from Hilliard Town Hall.

Sincerely,
 The Gardening Club of Hilliard

Keeping the Woods Safe

Dear Editor,
 As residents of Bryceville for 30 years, we moved here for the country life - away from the big towns and cities. In my opinion, if you want growth, such as subdivisions and stores, then you need to move to Callahan, Yulee, Macclenny or Jacksonville. We like Bryceville the way it is - just woods and animals. So, I will vote against anyone or anything that wants to change Bryceville.

Chris Book

Barnabas Appoints New Board Member

Barnabas Center proudly announces the appointment of a new member to its esteemed Board of Directors, marking the successful completion of her first quarter of service with the organization. Sarah Edwards, a seasoned professional with a wealth of business acumen and financial expertise, has joined the Board of Directors at Barnabas Center. Her profound commitment to community service, evidenced by her prior service on the finance committee, is a testament to her dedication. Her appointment is a significant step forward in Barnabas Center's ongoing mission to positively influence the local community. Reflecting on her experience serving on the Board of Directors, Sarah Edwards remarked, "It has been an honor to be part of an organization that is dedicated to making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community."



Jamie Reynolds, President/CEO of Barnabas Center, expressed gratitude for Sarah Edwards' contributions, stating, "Sarah has brought a keen strategic approach to our programs and services while championing innovation in our long-term planning efforts."

Barnabas Center remains steadfast in its mission to provide help and hope to individuals and families in need throughout Nassau County, FL, with a focus on improving stability, health, and overall well-being. For more information about Barnabas Center, please visit www.BarnabasNassau.org.

Southern Fried Nuptials Coming to St. Marys



Tickets are now on sale for St. Marys Little Theatre's (SMLT) comedy play "Southern Fried Nuptials" at Theater by the Trax in St. Marys. Show dates are May 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7 p.m., and May 19 and 26 at 2 p.m. According to SMLT Chair AND Co-director Gloria Hurley, "Southern Fried Nuptials" is a big-hearted comedy about family-southern style." She said that the show is filled with hilarious moments and zany situations that bring uproarious laughter from the audience. "We have an eclectic southern family dealing with everybody and anybody sticking their

nose into the family's business," Hurley said. "A wedding that may or may not happen is just the beginning."

Ann Walsh, director of the show said, "Southern Fried Funeral is an excellent way to escape for an evening or an afternoon. We guarantee tons of laughter and a great big dose of southern craziness." Walsh encourages people to get their groups together for the event as laughter is best shared.

Tickets for "Southern Fried Nuptials" can be purchased online at: www.stmaryslittletheatre.com or in downtown St. Marys at Once Upon a Bookseller. Cash or check at bookstore please. Adult tickets are \$20. Children 12 and under \$10.

For more information, email gloria.m.hurley@comcast.net or call 912-322-2479.



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Thank You from the Historical Society

John Hendricks & Emily Baumgartner

On behalf of the West Nassau Historical Society, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making our 19th Annual Railroad Day Festival & Car Show a fantastic success. We were blessed with good weather and great community support, which made for a steady crowd and a very enjoyable day. We are an all-volunteer 501c3 nonprofit and we depend heavily on monies raised from his signature event to achieve our goal of highlighting the culture and history of western Nassau County. We are extremely grateful for all of the area groups, businesses, citizens and volunteers who pitched in and made our 2024 Railroad Day possible.

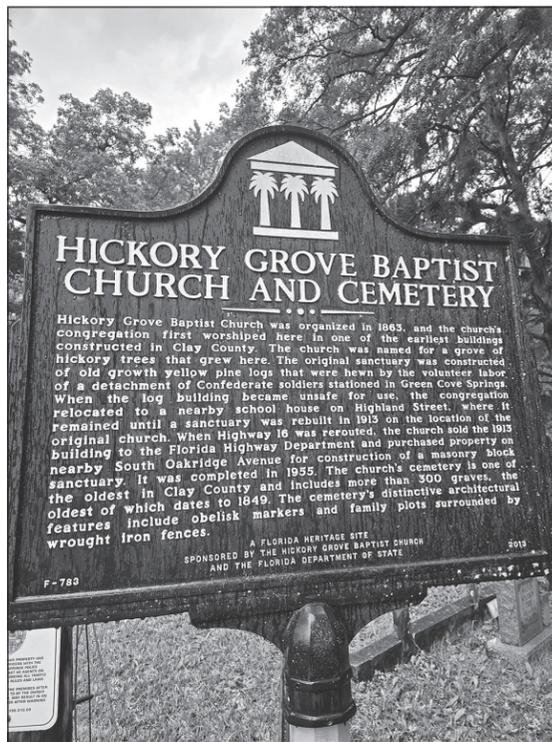
First, we would like to thank Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge, Town Manager Mike Williams and the Town of Callahan for allowing us to host the entertainment inside the new Callahan Pavilion and for use of the Historic 1856 rail bed. It is always great to see the rail bed come alive again with people. Kudos goes to our faithful supporters and donors: Nassau County BOCC and Bicentennial Officials for helping us celebrate Nassau County's 200th birthday; CSX Transportation, Bob Eubanks, Rayonier, WestRock, West Fraser, Florida Power and Light, Main Street Family Urgent Care, Commissioner Klynt Farmer, RPM Wood Products, AA Bottled Gas and Fuel, BSCM/Callahan Recycling, VyStar Credit Union, Nassau Printing, Gore's Nursery, Paul Clark Ford, Nassau County Record, Southeastern Bank, Westside Journal, Junior's Seafood, D & J Odds and Ends, Davis Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Brooks Rehab, Meridian Waste, Hagan Ace Hardware,

Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, Schwend Insurance, TRU-FI Credit Union, UF Health-Callahan, and Art and Culture Nassau.

Kudos to Callahan Cruisers and Cochran's Collision Center for hosting our fantastic classic car show and to the 80+ Classic Car owners. Thanks goes to our craft/food vendors and exhibitors who braved the extremely warm weather. Special thanks to Joel Pace Piano & Music for hosting our kids area and to Boy Scouts Troop 351 for presenting the Colors and for making the kids area fun. A big thank you goes to Jerry Peterson for coordinating the entertainment lineup and to Jerry Ganey, Rick Crosby, Buck Lucontro, Chuck Langager, Jeanne Scott and Patti Peterson Eason for making sure everything ran smoothly. Last, but not least, we want to give a very big thank you to our entertainers themselves for freely giving of their time and talents to put on a great show each year.

Last, we would like to thank each and every member of the West Nassau Historical Society who went above and beyond what was asked of them to ensure that we put on a safe and enjoyable event. You all continue to show that by working together, all things are possible. The West Nassau Historical Society is in crucial need for new members and volunteers to join us with planning future projects. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month for a meal at 6:30 p.m. followed by a meeting at 7 p.m. inside the historic Callahan train depot. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23. Please come on out and join us as we plan more events that will help us secure the future of our past.

One Family's Mission



Kim Hoffecker, Chaplain

A whole new world opened for Thomas "TJ" Jackson when he joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans Kirby-Smith Camp 1209. TJ, his wife Mandi and their son Tommy moved from Tennessee to Green Cove Springs in December 2021 due to job transfers. TJ joined the SCV in February 2023 and soon after took a course from Camp Adjutant Rick Roberts showing the safe and effective method to clean old grave markers which, over time and due to the elements, can become unreadable.

TJ asked Roberts about Confederate Veterans buried in Clay County cemeteries and soon had a list with 101 names. Old Hickory Grove Cemetery is known to have 21 Veterans interred in that location. That is where the Jackson

"Family mission" began. In May 2023, the family (TJ, Mandi and Tommy) pitched in and started a clean-up effort that included mowing of terribly high grass and trimming back overgrown shrubbery. TJ then enlisted the help of his Kirby-Smith 1209 brothers. More workdays followed with grass cutting, cutting back shrubs, removing fallen trees and limbs and reset three markers that had fallen.

In November 2023, five Southern Crosses of Honor were placed at gravesites. The veterans here all survived the war and made northeast Florida their home postwar. In service, they had come from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia. One grave is that of Charles T. Burford. After the

war, he served as the commander of the Charles Seton Fleming Camp 1616, United Confederate Veterans.

In the closing days to Confederate Heritage Month, TJ organized a memorial service at the cemetery. Prayers were offered, a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," TJ spoke about the honor of remembering the brave men of the South who defended their homes and families. As Kirby-Smith camp members rendered a three-volley rifle salute, TJ read the names of the 21 Confederate Veterans, their home state and the unit in which each served. Camp 1209 wishes to thank the Jackson family for a job well done. For more information about the SCV visit: www.scv-kirby-smith.org.

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DEA Drug TakeBack Nassau County Results



Per the Nassau County Sheriff's Department, the totals from the 2024 DEA Drug TakeBack program held last Saturday are: DRUG TAKE BACK: 262.16 pounds were collected from the county this weekend! Thank you to all who properly disposed of your unused medications!

**West Nassau
High School
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VIETNAM'S VOICES



Alicia Head, Town of Hilliard
Tiffany Holton, Hanging with Heroes
Monthly Market

"We do not honor war when we honor the peace that these men fought for, the freedoms they defended, and the hope that they offered to a world still in the process of learning how to resolve conflicts between individuals and between nations without using force. This is especially true when we pay tribute to those who answered the call of duty," said President Jimmy Carter, as he signed legislation in 1980 to approve the construction of the Vietnam Memorial.

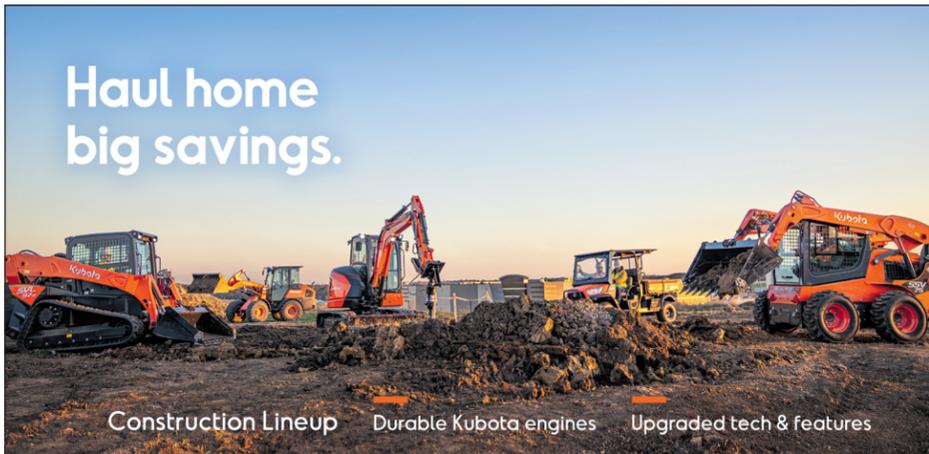
During the Vietnam War, more than 58,000 men and women in the armed forces lost their lives. Over 5 million people have paid their respects to those heroes at the Wall in Washington, D.C. However, many are unable to travel to Washington to see The Wall. The tremendous sacrifices made during the Vietnam War are commemorated by this traveling memorial. It was created to help mend and revive friendships, as well as, give those who might not otherwise be able to travel

to Washington the chance to see loved ones back home.

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is a three-fifths scale model of the Washington, D.C. original wall. From end to end, it is approximately 300 feet long. On April 17-21, 2025, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will travel to Callahan, and be displayed at the NE FL Fairgrounds, whom graciously donated the facility for our use. The event, which goes by the name "Vietnam Voices," is genuinely one that is for the community, by the community. The name was chosen for this event because We the People now are the Voices of those whom boldly gave their lives for the freedoms we are blessed to have today.

The Town of Hilliard, the Hanging with Heroes Monthly Market, and the VFW Auxiliary Post 10095 have partnered together, alongside the community, to bring this traveling piece of history to Nassau County. Over the next year, our partners will be doing monthly Vendor Markets, raffles and smaller events to fund the cost of bringing it to our community. The Hanging with Heroes Monthly Market is held the first Saturday (this Saturday, May 4) at the Hilliard Middle-Senior High School beginning at 9 a.m. A portion of all proceeds from all vendors is collected to put towards the expense of bringing the 'Wall' to our community. Please come out and support this great event!

Hosting The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will require a lot of volunteers to make it all fall in to place seamlessly. Those interested in helping out, or for other information on donating, please contact one of our partners. For more information, as it becomes available, you can follow the event page "Vietnam's Voices" on Facebook or under Town Events on The Town of Hilliard's Website.



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Sonshine Christian Academy Class of 2024



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Zebulan King Gavin Parrish Mya Propper



Deborah Ring Hayden Sheely Sarah Thomas

Sonshine Christian
Academy Graduation
Sunday, May 5
at 3 p.m.
Crossroads Church
Callahan



NCSO Sharpshooters Hit the Bull's-Eye at FDLE Sniper School

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) proved their abilities at a recent FDLE sniper school in Orlando. For 10 days, NCSO's Detective Cone, Deputy Morris, and FBPD's Officer Sieh attended the training. NCSO's Special Response Team stood out as some of the best shooters among the seven agencies in attendance. But it was Deputy Morris who truly hit the mark, taking home the coveted "Top Shooter" award, solidifying NCSO's reputation as a force to be reckoned with on the firing range. Congratulations!



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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, H1136, H1148, H1159, 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

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Deadline is Tuesdays at Noon
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YARD SALES

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE, Friday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., 61182 River Road, Callahan. Housewares, futon, tools, toys, lots of miscellaneous.

BIG 3-FAMILY YARD SALE, Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. until? 4810 Black Jack Lane, on River Road, Callahan. Household items, tools, clothes. Something for everyone! Look for signs! Rain cancels!

BIG 3-FAMILY YARD SALE, Saturday, May 4 and May 18, 273441 Murree Rd., Hilliard. New and Used items. Rain cancels!

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE! Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 9139 Ford Rd., Bryceville. No early birds, please! Clothes, home décor and much more!

2 FAMILY YARD SALE, Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. until? 35065 Keith Rd., Callahan. Lots of stuff for everyone! Rain cancels!

BIG YARD SALE, Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 44229 Pinebreeze Circle, Callahan. Rain cancels to next Saturday!

VFW POST 10095 YARD SALE, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., across from the Hilliard Airpark. New donations. \$5 bag day. Help support your Veterans!

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN'S MOTHER'S DAY BAZAAR, Saturday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., 15860 CR 108, Hilliard. Homemade desserts by the ladies, containerized planters, plants and shrubs. Grilled hotdogs and sausage dogs. Handmade crafts. **VENDOR PARKING SPOTS** available for \$20 each, first come first spot saved.

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We are no longer on "The Same Page"

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

The question has been asked of people, by their boss, party affiliations, friends and numerous organizations, none the least of which has been the nation as a whole. On many occasions, the coalescence of the country was never in question while at other times the split has been inevitable and, unfortunately, very predictable.

On September 11, 2001, American Flags showed up everywhere without any questions asked. After numerous studies, it was determined that one of the major causes for that attack was the fact that government agencies were not talking to each other. Twenty-three years later, that same observation is coming back to light, after nearly 12,000,000 "Illegal Aliens" have invaded our borders. When Iran invaded Kuwait, rapidly compromising the stabilities of economies around the world, the flags sprouted up again and volunteers to ensure the existing peace were abundant while spirits coalesced amongst the throngs. I recall a lady remarking to me, after seeing my hat and shirt that proclaimed my own service to the nation; "Aren't you glad you don't have to be there?" I responded; "I'd be there in a heartbeat, if asked, and without questions!" After December 7, 1941, the same phenomena took place, as the country rallied around the declaration that a "State of War has existed" between the US and the empire of Japan.

Just a few examples of the patriotism that swept the nation during difficult times. But today, the need for being on the same page seems to be swept under the rug, by those few who are searching for a "Limelight" to help build up their self-importance, which is completely unfounded. Rallies, proclaiming "Death to America" are now happening here, at home, and students (a term to indicate

learning) are closing their minds to the actual facts that demand appropriate actions. Through all the recent demonstrations, my thoughts come back to the answer. No, very few of us are "On The Same Page." On a previous essay, I eluded to the fact of an oath that the military and government employees take, up entering into service. Those same words are contained in the oath of citizenship, which Immigrants take when being naturalized. However, they are preceded with the following: "I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;" followed with the aforementioned willingness to defend and protect the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The Immigration Naturalization Act, Section 337, requires this oath for citizenship and those who take it assume they are aligning themselves with all other citizens, both naturalized and natural born. Of all those protestors out there, I wonder how many have been found to be citizens, which have taken that oath, and are now violating it. The law requires that information, but yet it is another aspect of the law that is being completely ignored and set aside, out of fear of appearing to be insensitive and non-inclusive.

So maybe it is time to once again begin to stand for America, land of the free and the brave, where we can once again turn on that shining light on the hill and stand up for the difference between right and wrong. So how about it folks? What's it going to take to get us all on the same page? Throwing away those pages we disagree with is not the answer!

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.

Wednesday, April 24

Tyler Blaine Dyal, 31, Hilliard: Resist without Violence (x 2); Grand Theft of Motor Vehicle; Aggravated Battery Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, EMT

Breann Cynthia Higgins, 31, Callahan: Battery Touch, Strike, Domestic Violence

Friday, April 26

William David McCullough, 47, Callahan: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession Methamphetamine

Herman Leston Prescott, 60, Callahan: Disorderly Intoxication; Threat Law Enforcement Death Harm; Resist without Violence

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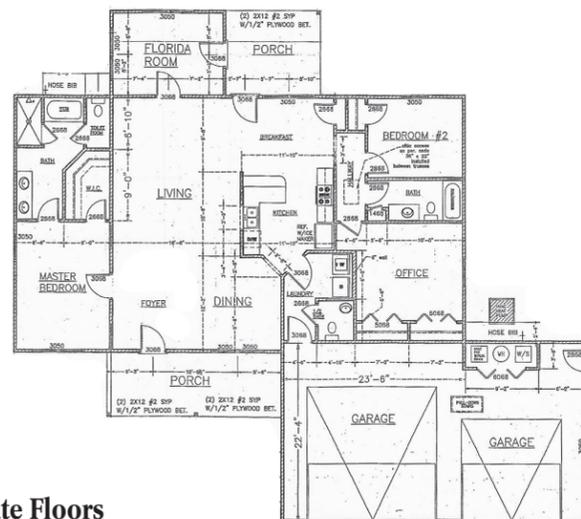
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BEVERLY BROCK



Beverly "Susie" Brock, 65, beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend, peacefully departed from this world April 23, 2024, after a courageous battle with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Susie dedicated over 20 years of her life to Anchor Glass/Anchor Hocking, where her hard work and dedication left an indelible mark on her colleagues and the company. Her commitment to excellence and her warm spirit endeared her to all who had the pleasure of working alongside her. Susie's laughter, warmth, and boundless love touched the lives of all who knew her. While she may no longer be with us in person, her spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to have known her. Susie will be dearly missed but forever remembered with love and fondness. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Johnny Brock; and her dear brother Herbie Rouse.

Susie leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories, deeply treasured by her children, Angela (Matthew) Smith and Jasper Andrews; grandchildren Elizabeth Smith, Brianna Andrews and Justin Andrews; great-grandson Waylon Walker; siblings John Rouse, Toni Rouse and Dewey Dickerson; as well as numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

A celebration of Susie's life will be held Friday, May 3 at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Rev. Doyle Harper officiating. Interment will follow at Dinsmore Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to American Lung Association in Susie's honor.

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

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

DOROTHY ELAINE CREWS

Dorothy Elaine Crews, 79, of Bryceville, passed away peacefully April 24, 2024, at the Life Care Center of Hilliard. She was born on November 5, 1944, to the late Jasper Hollis Champion and Edna Elaine Jordan Champion in Oxford, Mississippi. Dorothy was a kind soul who lived a simple life. She enjoyed spending time outside; especially swinging on her porch swing. Dorothy also enjoyed attending services at White House Assembly of God. More than anything, Dorothy loved to spend time with her family who she adored. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, who will be dearly missed. Dorothy is preceded in death by her parents; husband Billy Crews; son Billy Joe Crews; and daughter Teresa Crews Folk.

Dorothy leaves behind her sister Elizabeth Ann Champion Hodges; grandson Brent (Danielle) Crews of Hilliard; granddaughter Caitlin Folk; and her great-grandchildren Brendan, Chloe and Bella Crews.

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

OBITUARIES

EVELYN MUSGROVE DINKINS



Evelyn Musgrove Dinkins, 88, of Homeland, Georgia, passed away Saturday, April 27, 2024 at Hospice Satilla in Waycross, following a lengthy illness. She was born August 14, 1935 to the late Ollie and Susie Knight Musgrove. In addition to her parents; she is also preceded in death by her husband Dell L. Dinkins, Sr.; three sisters Wanda Bercaw, Audrey Dixon and Dorothy Haddock; seven brothers Richard Musgrove, Drady Musgrove, Buddy Musgrove, A.J. Musgrove, Mitchell Musgrove, Floyd Musgrove and Alton Musgrove.

She is survived by her children Dell, Jr. (Julie) Dinkins and Betty (Keith) Woolard; three grandchildren Aaron (Jonathan) Preston, Brad (Erika) Woolard and Lee (Amber) Dinkins; 11-great-grandchildren Meagan, Hanna, Becca, Emma, Charli, Graycee, Jaymee, Waylon, Jack, Boone and Flint; a sister Ann Grooms; a brother Freeman Musgrove; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A funeral service was held Monday, April 29 at Victory Baptist Church with Pastor Tim King officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Burial followed in Sardis Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice Satilla, 811 Beacon Street, Waycross, GA 31501.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

FRANCES ETHRIDGE



Frances Ethridge, 76, of Bryceville, was called home to be with the Lord on April 24, 2024, following a lengthy illness. She was born October 16, 1947 in Hahira, Georgia to the late Frank and Maydell Wilkerson, Sr. Frances married the love of her life, Sonny Ethridge in June 1964. She held many titles throughout her life; bus driver, substitute teacher, and CAN, however, her favorite titles were momma and nana. Frances loved all her babies, those related and those chosen. She played a huge role in helping raise many children in the Bryceville and Callahan communities. Frances was loved by all who had the honor of knowing her and will be missed dearly. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Sonny Ethridge; son Billy Ethridge; and grandson Cpl. Kalon Ethridge.

Frances is survived by her daughter Michelle Ethridge; son Michael (Christina) Ethridge; grandchildren Mariah, Logan, Casey, Ciara, and Brittany; great-grandchildren Braelynn, Amelia, Lawson, Madison, Isaiah and Evelyn; and brother Frank (Betty Jo) Wilkerson, Jr.

Pallbearers will be Michael Ethridge, Logan Ethridge, Jacky Strickland, Jeremy Conner, Brent Armstrong and Chuck Roundtree.

A celebration of Frances's life was held Wednesday, May 1 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Jeff Carter officiating. Interment followed at Riverside Memorial Park. The family received friends Tuesday, April 30 at the funeral home.

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

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

ELWOOD EDWARD GEIGER



Elwood Edward Geiger was born August 10, 1925 to Edward and Mary Geiger, and grew up on a farm north of Jacksonville. At the age of 18, he was drafted into Civilian Public Service and sent to Gatlinburg, Tennessee where he spent 11 months building trails and driving supply and dump trucks. He was transferred to Lisbon, New Jersey to work at New Jersey State Colony, a training facility for young boys, where, given his farm experience, he was called upon to work in the dairy. In 1946, Elwood was discharged to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) where he worked in the cattle and horse shipping program, making three trips to Poland, one to Bremen, Germany with horses to Czechoslovakia, and one to Volos, Greece. Working with the American Friends Service Committee, Elwood joined a transport team to deliver building supplies to war-torn Poland. In 1949, working again with the AFSC, he spent nine months in Gaza running the transport to get food, tents, and medical supplies to the then 270,000 refugees living there. His sister also worked in Gaza as a nurse at a clinic serving the refugees, but sadly she died of meningitis in 1950, and that same year Elwood returned home to Jacksonville to work on the family farm.

Elwood met his future wife, Marilyn, a bookkeeper at Macedonia Community in north Georgia, and they married in 1952. Elwood and Marilyn moved to Jacksonville, built their home there, and actively managed the family farm to support his parents and provide them with a steady retirement income. Unable to support them and his wife and daughter on timber sales alone, Elwood became a consulting forester, helping local landowners to manage their forest lands, and he fought to maintain fair property tax regulations, serving in this capacity up to his retirement.

Elwood's favorite hobbies included sailing, traveling and reading. He maintained an enviable memory well into advanced years. In 2003, he moved with his wife and daughter to South Dakota, where he joined and volunteered with the Spearfish Kiwanis Club until his health began to decline. He passed away on March 15, 2024 at the Rolling Hills Healthcare Center in Belle Fourche.

Survivors include his daughter Amy; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his wife. Memorials

are preferred to the Spearfish Kiwanis Club or Stillwater Hospice of South Dakota. No services were held.

Arrangements by Leverington Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche.

LISA ANN HALL



Lisa Ann Hall, also known as Lisa Eva to all her social media followers, passed away Monday, April 22, 2024, at Community Hospice Warner Center in Fernandina Beach. She was born September 30, 1969 to Adrienne (Nadeau) Plourde and Lawrence Plourde in New Britain and then Bristol Connecticut. Lisa was best known for her extremely kind and loving personality, her passion for animals and her impressive art skills. She had an impressive career as a graphic designer in the corporate world. Lisa also produced numerous drawings, paintings and sketches throughout her life with the skill and talent of a fine artist. One of Lisa's most enjoyable creative outlets was doing numerous large scale chalk board drawings on the "inspiration wall" in the lobby of the health clubs that she and her husband owned in Florida. Each one would take her a week to do, all the while members would walk past and admire her work in progress and the final result. They were truly impressive and inspiring.

Lisa comes from a very large family, originally from New Brunswick, Canada, but most moved to Connecticut in the 1960s, many still live there today. Her mother Adrienne is one of nine siblings, so Lisa always had the love and support of numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Lisa was diagnosed with Scleroderma around 1999. Instead of letting it get her down, she approached it head on participating in many treatments and trials along the way. She started her own charitable foundation and a social media group focused on the disease, which helped numerous others better understand the illness, what treatments would be worthwhile and helped others as well as herself deal with the emotional, financial and physical challenges it involved. Lisa became quite an inspiration to hundreds of people suffering with scleroderma, and hundreds more when she took the same approach with her cancer diagnosis two years ago. Lisa leaves behind many who are saddened by no longer having her leadership, experience and inspiration in these health battles, but all feel fortunate to have gotten to know her and having learned how to take the challenge head on. Lisa truly appreciated her social media followers from which she gained great strength, joy, happiness and satisfaction. Lisa is preceded in death by her father.

Her mother, Adrienne lives with her loving husband, Jeffrey Hall in Fernandina Beach.

Lisa wanted to give her most heartfelt thanks to the wonderful staff and doctors at the following medical facilities for all the love, caring, comfort and support they provided over the past few years. Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, Baptist Medical



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There will be a small private service with her immediate family. It would be Lisa's desire if anyone wishes to show their love and respect to her, please make a donation to a local SPCA or adopt a pet.

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

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

VERNON WAYNE HALL



Vernon Wayne Hall, 62, of Callahan, passed away Friday, April 19, 2024. Vern was born September 28, 1961 in Fernandina Beach, to Lois Eugene Hall and Anita Louise Hall.

He graduated from West Nassau High School in 1979, where he then made the decision to serve the country he loved so much and gave 20 years to the United States Air Force. After his retirement from the US Air Force, he was employed with Florida Home A/C, where he worked another 20-years before retiring.

Vern loved Scooby Doo, traveling, and making memories with those he loved. He enjoyed playing golf with the guys and watching his sports, all sports, didn't matter, but if Florida State was on you better be quiet or you were getting the "Vern look." If you knew Vern, you don't even have to ask what that look is because at some point or another, he gave you the "look" probably more times than anyone can count.

His biggest proudest accomplishments were being a husband, dad and Poppi. Vern spent 19 wonderful years married to his wife, Cindy, who sat right by his side through sickness and in health. Even in his last days he knew she was there holding his hand, sitting at his bedside with amazing support from those who loved them so much. Vern was preceded in death by his parents; brother David; and his 4-legged babies Ella Mae and Bandit.

Vern is survived by his wife Cindy; daughter Christina (Josh) Campbell; sons Christopher (Natasha) Westgate and Brannen Hall; grandchildren Shayla Campbell, Gage Burke and Blayde Hall; brother Micheal (Monica) Hall; and his 4-legged babies Jeffro and Zada.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Saturday, April 27 in the Broadus-Raines Chapel with Pastor Keith Stewart officiating.

Arrangements by Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, Green Cove Springs, 904-284-4000.

CHRISTINE L. HIGGINBOTHAM



Christine L. Higginbotham, 92, of Callahan, passed away peacefully April 25, 2024, at the Life Care Center of Hilliard.

She was born November 12, 1931 in Winokur, Georgia, to the late Willis Wingard and Joyce Crews Wingard. Christine was a homemaker and took pride

in taking care of her family. In her earlier years, she enjoyed canning vegetables and making jelly from various fruits. Christine was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and grandmother that will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Delma W. Higginbotham; son Rodney W. Higginbotham; and brother Delmus Wingard.

Christine is survived by her daughters Janice (Neal) Ierien and Charlotte (Richard) Kardatzke; brothers Jack Wingard and Junior (Kay) Wingard; granddaughter Sophia Kardatzke; nephew Jeff Wingard; along with other nephews and nieces.

A Celebration of Christine's Life will be held at a later date.

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

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

COLON "WAYNE" KISER



Colon "Wayne" Kiser, 68, of St. George, Georgia, passed away peacefully on April 19, 2024, at this home with his loving family by his side. He was born January 1, 1956, in Jacksonville,

to the late Colon Angeaish and Beatrice Marie Selph Angeaish. Wayne married the love of his life Pam, October 8, 1994, and together they shared 30 beautiful years of marriage. He was an avid outdoorsman; he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling. Wayne adored his family. He loved spending time with them especially his grandsons. Wayne was a loving husband, father, brother and grandfather that will be missed dearly. Wayne is preceded in death by his parents; and son Tim Coker.

Wayne leaves behind his wife, Pam Kiser; son Todd (Melissa) Coker; grandsons Thomas (Maggie) Coker and Patrick Coker; brother-in-law David Griner; and a host of extended family members and friends.

A celebration of Wayne's life was held Friday, April 26 at New Life Baptist Church with Bro. James Conner officiating.

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

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

GLORIA DIANNE NICKS



Gloria Dianne Nicks, 71, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ March 2, 2024, at her home in Denver, Colorado, after a brief battle with cancer. Gloria was born May 7, 1952 in Folkston, Georgia, to the late James C. Nicks, Sr. and the late Elizabeth Ann Buchanan (Eab) Nicks. She attended Hilliard School and was a 1970 graduate of West Nassau High School.

After high school, Gloria began her career with the U.S. Government at N.A.S. Jacksonville and N.A.S. Mayport. During her career she also worked for the Federal

Aviation Administration. She worked for the FAA in New Jersey, Washington D.C., Jacksonville (Airport), Jacksonville (Hilliard) and Denver, CO. Gloria retired from the government on July 2, 2007.

Gloria was a member of Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church in Aurora, Colorado. She always enjoyed the fellowship on many RV camping trips with her Sunday School class. Gloria also enjoyed European travel. She visited the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Greece. She always enjoyed seeing the U.S. through many travels throughout the country and Canada. More than anything, Gloria enjoyed time spent with family and friends. Gloria is preceded in death by her parents; and a sister Diane Ballard.

She leaves behind her son Pearl Nicks; five brothers Jimmy (Betty) Nicks, Jr., Craig (JoAnn) Nicks, Uly (Kathy) Nicks; David (Margo) Nicks and Kenneth (Melody) Nicks; three sisters Gloria Sluder, Sylvia Whittenburg and Mary Ann (John) VanZant; and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather for a celebration of life Saturday, May 11 at 11 a.m. at the home of John and Mary Ann VanZant in Hilliard.

ROGER PETERSON



Roger "Owen" Peterson, of Callahan, 74, of Callahan, passed away April 22, 2024. He was born January 29, 1950, the third of four children born to Roy and Eleanor Peterson. He grew up in Dinsmore where he attended local schools,

learned how to hunt, fish and developed a passion for farming and the outdoors. It's also where Owen met the love of his life, Victoria Jo Brand. At just 18 years old, Owen left for the Vietnam War, where he proudly served his country with distinction and honor in the US Army. Owen returned home in 1970 and married his sweetheart. Together they moved to Callahan, where they created a home and started a family. As a hardworking man, Owen spent hours making and creating things. Owen was an excellent woodworker and made furniture pieces that are cherished by family and friends. He was drawn to the outdoors. There he spent a lot of his time caring for his beloved chickens and his prized garden, producing beautiful flowers and tons of vegetables that he generously and often shared with others. Of the many things Owen made and did, his family was his best work. Owen loved his wife, to whom he was married nearly 54 years, and he loved his girls and his grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents; and sister Patsy Bryant.

Owen is survived by his wife Vicky; daughters Brandy Brandies and Alisha (Tub) Whitaker; grandchildren Dylan (Hannah) Brandies, Brent Whitaker (Gracen) and Laney Whitaker (Austin); great-granddaughter Hazel Brandies; and

many extended family and friends.

A celebration of Owen's life was held Tuesday, April 30 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor David Harris officiating. Interment followed at Dinsmore Cemetery, where military honors were rendered. The family received friends Monday, April 29 at the funeral home.

Pallbearers were Brent Whitaker, Dylan Brandies, Austin James, Drew Peterson, Bubba Bryant and Todd Colson. Honorary pallbearer was John Grable.

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

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

WILLIAM "BILL" SHUBERT



William "Bill" Shubert, 79, passed away peacefully April 27, 2024, at his home on in O'Brien, Florida. He was a devoted husband to

Brenda for over 37 years. Bill was of the Baptist faith and loved the Lord Jesus. He was honorably discharged from the National Guard of Florida on September 8, 1969, and retired as a courier on February 28, 2021. Bill was a member of Bible Baptist Church in Live Oak. He is preceded in death by his father, mother, and sister.

Bill is survived by his wife Brenda T. Shubert; children Amy Corpe', Melissa Shubert, April Swanson and Amanda Shubert; brother Carroll "Coby" (Donna) Shubert, Jr.; sister Evelyn "Sue" (Calvin) Cail; grandson Seth Corpe'; and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

A graveside service for Bill will be held Thursday, May 2 at 2 p.m. at Buford Grove Cemetery, Hilliard, with Pastor Brent Whittle officiating.

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

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

SYDNEY MICHELLE WEISCOFF



Sydney Michelle Weiscopef, 17, of Bryceville passed away far too soon, Sunday, April 28, 2024. Sydney was a lifelong resident of Bryceville, born to Michael "Mike" and Sherry Weiscopef March 26, 2007.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, May 4 at 1 p.m. at Gainey Pines, 1845 Kinard Road, Bryceville. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations be to either of the following organizations: <https://www.treadandtrample.org/s/stories/in-memory-of-sydney-weiscopef-3>; or <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/b582daa7-b858-4fb2-a60a-dc5dc51af728>.

Forbes Funeral Home assisted the family with the arrangements, Macclenny, (904) 259-4600.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.forbesfuneralhome.net.

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Several plans and payment options are available to fit every need. If you would like to discuss arrangements or have any questions, we encourage you to contact us.

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Nassau MOAA Chapter Honored with National Awards

The Nassau Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America was recently recognized for its exceptional leadership and performance over the past year when it received three national awards.

Nassau MOAA President, CAPT Mike Doran, USN (Ret), was congratulated by CDR Patrick Kluever, USN (Ret), President of the Florida Council of Chapters on the Nassau Chapter earning the National 5 Star Level of Excellence, 5 Star Harris Communications Award (Newsletter) and the 4 Star Harris Communications Award (Website) for 2023.

The National MOAA Level of Excellence Award is one of MOAA's most prestigious awards, and is awarded in three levels, 3 Star, 4 Star, and 5 Star. The 5 Star level conferred on the Nassau Chapter reflects the highest level of achievement in criteria ranging from chapter leadership and membership participation in chapter community service initiatives, to advocacy supporting national defense and the readiness of America's



uniformed services to fulfill their missions across all ranks and services at every stage of their careers. With more than 360,000 members, MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization--the nation's largest and most influential association of uniformed service officers and their surviving spouses.

The National Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Program was established to recognize and honor chapters providing effective communications and useful information to both military and civilian audiences. CAPT Doran praised the dedication and professionalism of Newsletter Editor, CDR Richard Sharp, USN and LCDR Joe Blanchard, USN, the Chapter's Webmaster, for their dedicated services achieving national recognition.

For more information about MOAA contact: CAPT Mike Doran, USN (Ret) at: mike.doran89@gmail.com; or CAPT Tracy Connors, USN (Ret) at: tdconnors@earthlink.net.

FSCJ Receives Grant for Students with Unique Abilities

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) was awarded a \$1,484,224 VERTICAL (Vocational and Employment Readiness Training in Comprehensive Adult Learning) grant

to support students with unique abilities. As part of the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP), FSCJ's VERTICAL program will be an inclusive, vocational, technical and career-readiness training program for adults with intellectual disabilities in Duval and Nassau counties. The program offers students the opportunity to earn meaningful industry-recognized credentials that lead to relevant employment upon completion. VERTICAL students will be immersed in the FSCJ community, actively participating in on-campus classes, community-based organizations and student clubs and activities. Participants can complete the program in one to three years, depending on the chosen career path.

Currently, FSCJ is the only state/technical college FPCTP in the region, with the demand for these services only growing. At this time, the College serves 55 students who have self-disclosed an intellectual disability as their primary disability. VERTICAL will allow an additional ten students to enroll for the

first fall cohort. The following year, and each subsequent year, another ten students will be accepted, with the expectation that up to 30 students will complete the program during the three-year grant project period.

"We are grateful for this grant and what it means for our students and this community," said College President John Avendano, Ph.D. "FSCJ is proud to serve as an educational partner for anyone and everyone who wishes to elevate themselves through higher education. Thanks to this grant, we will be able to further our ability to do just that and help even more students pursue their goals."

The following career and technical education tracks will be offered through VERTICAL: Office Specialist College Credit Technical Certificate; Certified Nursing Assistant; and Welding Technology.

Participating students will select career preparation and job training options most appropriate for their success. Following completion, they will receive direct job placement and stabilization in competitive, gainful employment positions within the greater Jacksonville community. Positions will closely match the industry-recognized certificate attained or one that aligns with the student's preference.



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Burns Officially Kicks Off Bid for Re-Election as Superintendent

Dr. Kathy Burns, the Superintendent of Nassau County Schools, has officially announced her candidacy for re-election. The announcement came during an energetic campaign kickoff event held March 26 at RPM Lumber in Yulee, which saw an



impressive turnout of supporters and community members. Under Dr. Burns' leadership, Nassau County Schools have seen significant advancements in educational quality, technological integration, and student performance. Her dedication to fostering an environment of excellence within the school district has been evident through the successful implementation of innovative educational programs and the enhancement of teacher and staff development initiatives. Speaking to a packed house at the event, Dr. Burns outlined her vision for the future of Nassau County Schools, emphasizing her commitment to continue the positive momentum and build on the achievements of her current term. "Our journey towards educational excellence is ongoing, and together, we can ensure that our schools not only meet but exceed the expectations of our students, parents, and community," stated Dr. Burns. "Everything we've done over

the past eight years is a credit to our incredible district employees. We've been able to increase staff salaries, which will aid in retaining current employees and attracting new talent. Our staff is the backbone of this community and I'm so proud to work with them every day."

Election day is Tuesday, August 20 and Dr. Burns invites all Nassau County residents to join her in her campaign to continue serving the students and families of the community. By focusing on enhancing educational outcomes, preparing students for future success, and ensuring the highest standards of school safety, Dr. Burns is dedicated to leading Nassau County Schools towards a brighter future.

Over the next 4 years, Dr. Burns plans to emphasize expanding career and technical training opportunities, growing the Pre-K program, enhancing safety procedures, and implementing a new master plan for the construction of new schools as Nassau County continues to grow.

For more information about Dr. Kathy Burns' campaign for re-election as Nassau County Superintendent, or to join the campaign efforts, visit: www.KathyBurnsForNassauSchools.com.

Officer Involved Shooting Last Thursday

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) responded to an officer-involved shooting at Green Pine Cemetery shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday, April 25. Initially, deputies were called to the area for a wellness check on an individual who might have been suicidal. When officers located the subject, he was pointing a pistol at his head.



Fearing for their lives, deputies discharged their weapons, striking the subject, who is now deceased. This was not the desired outcome, but priority is ensuring the deputies' safety so they can return home. Our hearts go out to the individual's family members during this difficult time.

Per NCSO policy, the deputies involved have been placed on administrative leave. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is on the scene, investigating the incident.

NCSO deputies attempted to de-escalate the situation and persuade the individual to put down the weapon and talk. However, at one point, he pointed his firearm at the deputies.

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<p>Meaty Beef NECKBONES \$2⁰⁰ lb. Expires 5-7-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>	<p>15 lb. Case OX TAILS Cut the way you like! \$1¹⁵ Expires 5-7-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>

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Sheriff Leeper Recognizes Great Kids!

West Nassau High School



Recently, Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper visited West Nassau High School and presented seniors Olivia Risinger and Bradyn Walsky with the "Great Kid Award."

Olivia is currently on the girls' track team at West Nassau High School where she runs long distance events. Along with running track, Olivia plays soccer and was a Captain on the team the past two seasons. Olivia has played soccer many years and has developed into a great defensive player and leader for the team. Olivia has also played in the band at West Nassau and has been a member of the band all four years in high school. Olivia is a team player in all that she does, and she is always willing to help her teammates and fellow band members. Olivia always puts academics first; she maintains great grades while taking Honors classes and dual enrollment classes. Olivia

is able to maintain great grades while participating in several extracurricular activities, and she always has a positive attitude. Olivia is the definition of a model student, and is a great role model for other students at West Nassau.

Bradyn is a senior at West Nassau High School. Bradyn has truly made the most of his four years of High School. Bradyn is a well-rounded young man who is actively involved in several sports and activities on campus and has made Warrior Nation proud. Several school staff members have observed Bradyn encouraging and helping other students in sports and in the classroom. Bradyn participates in several sports including the Basketball, Golf, and Track. Along with helping others and playing sports, Bradyn has maintained great grades. Bradyn has defiantly left his legacy at West Nassau High School, and he has a bright future ahead of him.

Hilliard Middle-Senior High School



Recently, Sheriff Bill Leeper stopped by Hilliard Middle-Senior High School to present Lydia Hunter and Devin Sapp with the "Great Kid Award." These students were nominated by their school resource officer, Deputy Revels.

Lydia Hunter is a junior at HMSHS who was nominated because she shows respect to her peers and school staff. She also works hard academically and puts forth great effort each day with each assignment she is given. Because of her strong work ethic, Lydia has maintained straight A's through the 2023-24 school year. Lydia is also a model citizen in the classroom. She always has a smile on her face and positive attitude and is well-liked by

her peers.

Devin Sapp is a dedicated and respectful senior at HMSH who consistently earns top grades across all subjects. Beyond his academic achievements, he stands out for his extensive volunteer work, dedicating countless hours to serving his community. Whether cleaning up after sporting events, serving in the concession stands, or participating in local clean-up initiatives, Devin's commitment to making a positive impact is unwavering. His exemplary character and strong work ethic make him not only a standout student but also a valued member of the community.

Callahan Middle School

Sheriff Bill Leeper visited Callahan Middle School recently and presented 8th graders Cameron Grinder and Taryn Harter with the "Great Kid Award." They were nominated by their school resource officer, Deputy Clifton.

Cameron is focused on excellence for himself and others and he works hard to achieve his goals. Cameron is also willing to lend a helping hand to other students and teachers.

Taryn is a model student and is committed to creating a positive culture amongst her peers in both school and extra-curricular activities. She is focused on being academically successful and achieving her goals.



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