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WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XX ISSUE 40

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024



An Evening Under the Stars Held at Life Care Center

Dawn S. West

Saturday, Life Care Center of Hilliard residents were invited to take part in an afternoon Prom, hosted by West Nassau High School Chick-fil-A Leader Academy and other clubs with advisor Tammy Roberts. Residents that chose to participate, enjoyed time with a WNHS student Saturday morning to do manicures, make-up and hair for the event. Evening gowns, dressy pant suits and suits with blazers were all donated for the residents to wear for the special day. The residents were treated to the West Nassau High School Jazz Band playing and singing in the courtyard. From the courtyard, they went to the dining room where they enjoyed a picture time, punch and cupcakes to enjoy while enjoying music by Mr. Trent Wainright, the father of one of the students.

The residents also enjoyed singing and dancing to the special music. Different superlatives were chosen from the Hazelwood and Hickory sides which included titles: Best Dressed, Prettiest Room, Most Likely to Walk 100 laps; Most Likely to Know the Gossip; etc. There were two sets of Prom Kings and Queens chosen and they are: Kings: Henry Hartsfield and Charles Daughtry; and Queens: Zonia Moore and Gail Chancey. Hats off to the West Nassau students who decorated, made the invitations and provided an extremely fun day for the residents. It was a day they won't forget! The smiles were priceless!



National Day of Prayer Service Held

Dawn S. West

Last Thursday, was the National Day of Prayer. It is always the first Thursday in May every year. For several years, the Town of Callahan has hosted the event and The Anchor Church has helped to organize the different speakers. This year was no different. I guess I would understand better why the park is not overflowing with people every National Day of Prayer event if the day (first Thursday in May) changed every year, or the place, but it hasn't. Just thinking of the challenges in our world and especially following the tragic week, that there would have been more people. If you missed the service, you missed being in the presence of God.

Business owner Paul Schwend opened the service with a heartfelt prayer. The



WN JROTC presented the colors as the Pledge of Allegiance was said and the National Anthem sang beautifully by LeeAnn Purvis. A scripture reading and powerful prayer was shared by Dr. Reginald Edwards; followed by a prayer from Patsi Kelly. West Nassau High School Assistant Principal Lester Smith said a

directional prayer for our children, youth and students and prayed for the guidance only Christ can provide. Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge prayed for our government leaders; and Callahan Methodist Pastor Bodie Riddle spoke words from the heart and then prayed for our military and their families. Natasha Drake prayed for our School Administration, teachers and staff; and Josh Williams prayed for our Public Safety and First Responders to give them comfort and peace from the week and safety always. The Citywide Male Chorus provided beautiful music that was uplifting to everyone attending and those who were listening from afar.

Pastor Lee Whitaker prayed for the morality of our nation and each one of us as he used Bible verses to back each

statement of what happens when morality is lost. Sharon Burke prayed for health and wellness, as she has been in the medical field for years, reminding all that the health field is broken, as she asked for forgiveness. Pastor Marty Paparo prayed for the business community, as we all continue to struggle; and Noah Jenkins prayed a powerful prayer for economic prosperity in our community and country; followed by another powerful song, God Bless the USA, by LeeAnn Purvis, there wasn't a dry eye. Pastor Jeff Carter closed the service with an awesome prayer for church growth and strength here in our community.

God is so good and He has blessed us so much. We give Him all the Glory! Thank you all for making the service amazing!

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A Word From the Publisher

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers! What a special time to celebrate you. Mothers are the ones always making sure everything runs right, everyone's dressed nicely and try to make things run smoothly. Most mothers are in charge of the children, meals, laundry and much more. Please use this weekend to enjoy your mother, visit your mother or definitely call your mother! And if you are a mother, you get to chose what you want to do! Spend time with your children...or go to the beach, it's your day!



I, for one, am so thankful to still have my mother (and dad)! She just turned 92 and is still like an angel to me. Mom has always just had that special way of making you feel like everything is okay...even if you feel your world has crumbled. She's always been there to pick me up, give amazing advice and many times just listen. I've tried many times to be more like her but that is still a work in progress. She still treats all of her children (and spouses) with the tenderest of care. She's so attentive to what we have going on and is slow to tell us what's going on with her. She has a smile that lights up the room and loves to laugh.

She has so much wisdom but is pretty shy about it. She is an amazing cook and still shares recipes from old, to this day. I thought I had them all and

then she will surprise me with a different way to cook something special, but easy! She reads a lot and retains everything. I have always seemed to come up with crazy things that happen and ask her if she knows how to fix it. Quickly she responds, "I read something one time about that. All you have to do is..." And it has always worked. I'm still working on that trait from her to kick in for me.

My mom, loves the Lord. She has endured many difficult health issues however she amazes me with her pain threshold. She has turned to God for these issues and He has provided the care and the procedures she needed. I am so thankful for my mom and for the role model she has been all of my life. I don't even think she has raised her voice. I'm not sure how that could be with five children only seven years apart. I call that crazy but amazing. Thank you, Mom, for always being there for me and always loving me!

If you still have your mom, make sure to let her know what she means to you this week. If you are a mom, enjoy your children. As my mom says, "You never stop being a Mama!" And she is right!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of May. The first business was a presentation read by Mayor John Beasley congratulating Hilliard Town Clerk Lisa Purvis as they celebrate Professional Municipal Clerks Month during the week of May 5-11.

The first order of business was the approval on First Reading of Ordinance 2023-03 which concerned Trespass Warning on town property. The ordinance went on to read: An Ordinance of the Town of Hilliard adding a Section to the Code of Ordinances regarding Trespass Warnings on Public Property and other Property Generally open to the Public. The Town of Hilliard desires the Nassau County Sheriff's Office to issue trespass warnings to individuals who are acting in violation of any Town Ordinance, rule or regulation, or state law while on or within a town facility, building, or outdoor area; and the Town of Hilliard desires to provide consistency and uniformity for the issuance of these trespass warnings; and the Town desires to create a process for individuals to appeal these trespass warnings. The Public Hearing and Second and Final reading will be held Thursday, June 6 at 7 p.m.

The next item concerned the approval to adopt Resolution 2024-10 which concerned amending Resolution 2023-

04, adding penalty fees to the Zoning & Land Development Regulations for work being done prior to approval.

The council also approved adopting Resolution 2024-11, which adds a fee (\$250) for well exception applications, just as the septic tank exceptions pay.

The following item was the Town Clerk's notification to the council of the emergency procurement in accordance with Town Code Chapter 2 Administration; with TB Landmark Construction, Inc. for the approval for the replacement of Manhole #208 at Shady Lane and Pine Street. The council will be notified when the road will be closed to complete the work on the Manhole.

The council approved the payable for project: NW Quadrant Street Millings in the amount of \$30,523. The council approved the payable for TB Landmark Construction, LLC for project Oxford Street Force Main Rerouting in the amount of \$147,565.30.

The council approved the payables through March 12 for project: Town Hall Park Expansion in the amount of \$18,353.65.

The final item was the council approval of the payable through April 9 for project: IT Town Hall Refresh in the amount of \$6,105.39.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m.

CLASS REUNION

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 Murrhee Rd., Hilliard, 32046.

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Objection to Proposed Nassau Textbooks

Get a cup of coffee and take a deep breath because you will not believe this. The SAVVAS textbooks up for adoption need to be stopped NOW. Read the facts and decide if you should share your opinion. Share with other parents and concerned citizens.



In April of 2024, Nassau County School District (NCSD) is proposing the adoption of numerous textbooks from McGraw Hill, Gallopade and SAVVAS Learning, LLC (division of Pearson Publishing). The public can provide feedback to the school board up until the public hearing and vote on May 23. You can get involved by calling the Superintendent and School board members and sending them an email with your opinion and any concerns.

Based upon research, Nassau Citizens Defending Freedom objects to all of

the SAVVAS Learning, LLC textbooks due to specific textbook content, dynamic online materials that are not available for public review and have not been reviewed by the district, SAVVAS/Pearson Social Emotional Learning (CASEL.org) relationship, and Pearson alignment with Gender Spectrum Symposium, and Pearson alignment with Tavistock & Portman, UK's largest provider of transgender services.

Details of the facts behind the objections are included at Google: Nassau County Citizens Defending Freedom, and click on the Objection to Proposal link.

If enough community members object, maybe the school district will not spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on these textbooks.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Can you even imagine a President in America that would support the idea that they should arrest their opponents and make sure they are the only name on all ballots, to protect democracy? Asinine as that is, it's basically where we are as a country at this exact moment. Can you believe there are still people in this country that truly believe that this mindset is not only appropriate but necessary? I continue to believe that liberalism is certainly a mental and moral disorder. This type of ideology is just the opposite of what they claim, yet they are blinded by hate, gas lighting and brainwashing.

Last week, according to the Deplorable Daily, Biden attended and spoke at the White House Correspondents' dinner, which "is normally a disgusting display where journalists and Democrats get to drop the mask and link arms for a night of celebration. Biden tore into Donald Trump and hammered home his false claims that he and his voters are a threat to democracy." It's the same lies that the democrats are releasing so feverishly all across the nation. Looney Joe stated, "The defeated former President has made no secret of his attack on our democracy. He said he wants to be a dictator on day one and so much more. He tells supporters he is the revenge and retribution." Of course, in a room full of liberal media, no one was going to correct Biden's lies. Of course, Biden had to bring back Trump's "blood bath" comment. "When in God's name ever heard of another President say something like that? And he promised a bloodbath when he loses again," Biden added. The DD said in this hoax, Democrats took a comment Trump made about Biden winning re-election resulting in a bloodbath for the auto industry to falsely mean that he would call on his

supporters to riot if he loses the election. If Biden's lies were not low enough, he then began telling the press what they need to do for him to win re-election. Biden then warned the media that he would lose the election unless they pivoted to nonstop attacks on Trump. Biden told his assembled supporters in the press that they needed to end any critical coverage of him, stop reporting on polls showing him losing, and instead focus on amplifying his Big Lie that American democracy will end if Donald Trump wins re-election. "Move past the horse race numbers and the gotcha moments, and the distractions, the sideshows that have come to dominate and sensationalize our politics and focus on what's actually at stake. I think in your hearts, you know what's at stake," Biden pleaded. Biden wrapped up by calling for more media censorship of conservatives and for an environment where Americans only had access to "news" from left-wing media sources. I guess that's the way liberals view democracy! Another thing very few elected representatives can get through their heads is we are not a democracy; we are a republic, big difference!

As the idiotic college students and paid actors disrupt campuses all across the country with their support of a terrorist organization and threatening Jews, the south has stood up and showed out against the idiots. The SEC might not have won a National Title this year, but the SEC Colleges have won the nation by handing the protesters a sound defeat! Gotta love the SEC! Personally, I think we need to load up all these Palestine lovers and give them a free trip to Gaza so that they can have a direct helping hand with their beloved.

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

Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

In 1692, Mary Eastey was one of 14 women executed for witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts. She left many descendants, some very famous. According to famouskin.com baseball great Ty Cobb is her 6th great-grandson and actress Lucille Ball and Clara Barton founder of the American Red Cross are also distantly related to her. You never know what you will find in your ancestry.

To learn more, join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club. Visitors are always welcome!

CLASS REUNION

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.

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Mama Knows Best

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



As a young child, I thought of Mom as being the person you could run to after getting hurt to hold you, giving hugs and kisses to make things better. My mom was the one who made the day; she always made sure I was ready for school, games and church. She taught me how to brush my teeth before bed and instilled good manners in me. Preparing me for life, but as a child at the time, I did not always understand. But now I can say, Mama knows best. I never thought how all of these “actions” might help me in the future. I thought all those things were only plain and boring for me and were meant to torture me and a total waste of time entirely. Oh boy, how a child’s mind thinks.

During my childhood, my siblings and I always heard my mother say, “Stop this instant, or you are going to get hurt.” The look on her face when I walked out the door as a teenager, praying that I would return in one piece. I was walking in the door to see my mom awake with a smile. I would ask Mom, “What are you still doing up?” She said, “One day, you will understand when you have children.”

In Joshua 2, Rahab is faced with a decision when two spies were sent out to spy the land knowing that God had sent them after the conversation with the men. Joshua 2:3-4 says, “*And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, there came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were...*”

Rahab shows their mother’s affection for her family by asking the two spies to spare their lives when God gives them the land. Not only did Rahab display affection and her protective instinct. But she uses wisdom; in this particular text in the Bible, we can find so many remarkable things that support how we feel about our mothers. Once we come to the truth, we can honestly say that mamas really know best in every situation that we find ourselves in. They have answers and resources.

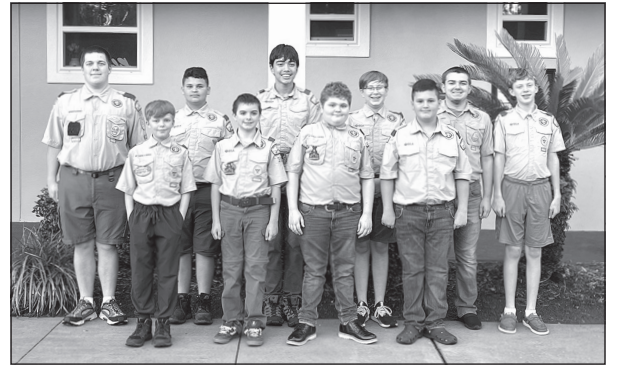
Graduating seniors, as you look back over your 12 years of school, there’s only one way you made it this far, and it’s because of Mama. This Mother’s Day, we can honor our mothers and thank them for their support, unwavering love, dedication and commitment to teaching us how to be better citizens in the world that we live in. We could not be approaching the day of graduation without mothers being our rock.

Mama has prepared me for life the best way she knew how; thank you for the many hugs and kisses. All of Mama’s prayers have worked. Her motherly instinct, affection, and protection have made me who I am today; mamas are just like Rahab. They know exactly what to do, when, and how to make things turn out correctly, no matter the circumstances. Seniors, as you recognize your mothers this Mother’s Day, remind them that they genuinely know what’s best.

Grace and Peace from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Callahan Boy Scout Troop #351 will host a pre-Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast this Saturday, May 11 from 8 – 11 a.m. at the Callahan Masonic Lodge, 45085 Frank Brookins Drive.



All proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the funding of the Troop’s Scouting adventure to Spanish Trail Scout Reservation in DeFuniak Springs in June! The breakfast will be \$10 (includes pancakes, bacon & fruit). All donations are accepted. Thank you advance for your support of our Boy Scouts!

Farm & Garden



David M. Hebert, UF/IFAS Extension Agent I
If you have agricultural questions or issues, please feel free to call 1-904-530-6356 or email: david.hebert@ufl.edu.

Peanut Nodule Analysis

If you are a peanut grower, then you need to take advantage of our county agent, David Hébert, who is doing site visits this spring and summer to assess crop health for peanut growers all over the county. “One of the main indicators of peanut health is nodule activity and we can make quick field determinations about the health of your crop. In addition, we can easily differentiate between nodules and root knot nematodes, which are also prevalent and tend to have the same appearance,”

said Hébert. Based on the inside color of the nodules, UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County can draw conclusions about the health of your peanut plants. For 2024, the extension office is offering this service free of charge in an effort to promote awareness of the services it has to offer county residents.

To make an appointment to have your peanut roots looked at in our office, or to have David make a site visit to your operation, call (904) 530-6356 or email david.hebert@ufl.edu.

CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road, Jacksonville will hold their monthly Gospel Sing Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. featuring The Duncans and our host, The Gospel Sounds. Refreshments will follow the sing!

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.

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Controversy at Callahan Community Market

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their first meeting of May with a completely packed room. Once the meeting was called to order, persons wishing to address the council did. John Hendricks, representing the West Nassau Historical Society (WNHS) approached the podium. "I'm here concerning the Callahan Community Market. I want to share a little history. The Town of Callahan (TOC) retained the rail bed years ago. Two years ago the TOC began building the pavilion. The WNHS became the third party to handle the rental of the pavilion and rail bed for the TOC," said Hendricks. "The Callahan Community Market began in 2013 setting up in the parking lot in front of the Depot. Verbal rules were that the vendors had to be a non-profit or giving back to the community in some way and handled by the honor system. This January, I was approached and told there would be a new market manager coming for the first Saturday of the month. Eventually the old group moved to the second Saturday of the month. Now there are issues brewing with vendors being blocked by old vendors and we need help from the council to continue. The WNHS has been good stewards for the town for 19 years and we will continue to do so with your (council) help."



The first order of business was the swearing in of Matthew Davis as a

Councilman. He was appointed to take the seat that David Mellecker held. If Davis chooses, he will have to run in the November 2024 election to retain the seat.

The next order of business was the approval of Resolution 2024-R03 which concerned donating \$500 to the Callahan Methodist Church Memorial Day Rod Run.

The final agenda item was the site plan review for Aroma Waffle & Ice Cream Shop. The shop will be located at the corner of 5th Avenue and US Highway 1 (beside Baptist Primary Care office). The site plan was approved contingent on the shop owner providing 10 additional parking spaces and 2 handicap spaces. The owner, Tony Asad, plans to also offer parking at the south end of the building beside the used car lot. "The shop will offer all kinds of ice cream and be a family place. There will also be coffee available in the mornings," said Asad.

In closing comments, Councilwoman Ashton Bishop Vargas asked if the Oak Trail speed limit would be on the next agenda? "I drove down Oak Trail. The speed limit is currently 25mph. I think 20mph would be fine. I drove 20mph and think that would help the residents," said Vargas.

The council just gave a consensus to change the speed limit signs to 20mph on Oak Trail, as soon as it can be done.

Also, Council President Ken Bass asked if anyone else wanted to speak? At that time eight or more of the group spoke at the podium concerning the market manager Mariah Luster about her character and her concerns for each vendor and her love for community.

Mayor Randy Knagge advised the group that the council and WNHS will get together and try to work this out quickly for both markets.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

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<p>LEG QUARTERS</p> <p>\$7⁹⁵</p> <p>10 lb. Bag</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p>USDA Whole T-BONES</p> <p>\$6⁹⁵ lb.</p> <p>Cut the way you like!</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>
<p>10 lb. Bag FRYER DRUMSTICKS</p> <p>\$7⁹⁵</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</p> <p>\$4⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p>Sliced the way you like it!</p> <p>WHOLE OR HALF</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p>Meaty Pork SPARE RIBS</p> <p>\$1⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p>2-3 Pack</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>	<p>COUNTRY STYLE BREADED SHRIMP</p> <p>\$8⁹⁵</p> <p>3 LB. BAG 21-26 SIZE</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>
<p>Meaty Beef NECKBONES</p> <p>\$2⁰⁰ lb.</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>	<p>15 lb. Case OX TAILS</p> <p>\$1¹⁵</p> <p>Cut the way you like!</p> <p>Expires 5-14-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>

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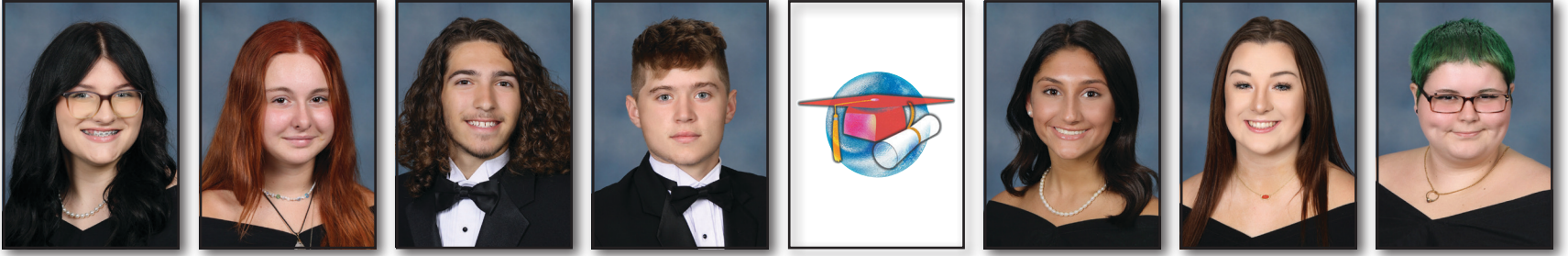
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Raely Grace Beasley
Cameron Shane Bennett
Jeremiah James Bevis, Jr.
Rebecca Nicole Blalock
Kaiauna Lamauri Bobbitt
Isabella J. Mulle Boehmer



Ryland Presley Bradley
Dakota Anne Brown
Mason Wayne Card
Raymond William Cassidy, Jr.
Chase Jonaven Chavarria
Wrayle Grace Coleman
Kaydence LeAnn Collins
Jaydin Brook Combs



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Madison Marie Cooper
Derek Wesley Courtney, Jr.
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Jordan Jamaree Davis
Kylie Nicole Dennis
Jaden Michael Donley
Auneria Alae Doyle



Hallie Anne Driggers
Ryland John Dyal
Joshua Warren Emery
Te'Yahna Ormahni Ford
Jacob Lane Fouraker
Kristin Marie Fouraker
Jake David Franklin
Alexis Danyelle Geoghagan



Matthew Bryan Goolsby
Braydon Noah Holley
Austin Lamar Howard
Andrew Manfred Huber
Isaac Lane Hunter
Kailey Raye Hutchins
Kaydence Faith Hutton
Jayden Dwayne Israel



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Abigail Delaney Jarrett
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Victoria Koehler



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Skylar Alexis Loveland
Mitchell Lannis Maddox, Jr.
Zachary Thomas Mason
Shiann Georgia McConnell
Ian Saige McCoy
Braylon RaShaun McCrae
Charlie Paige McCullough



Nolan Kyle McKelvy
Emma Jane Mecom
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Graduation Thursday, May 23 • 6:30 p.m. • Paul Whittenburg Field



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Devin Tyler Sapp
Brandyn M. Seldomridge
Alyssa Camryn Sherman
Aaron Michael Sierra-Shack
Gage Cole Sikes

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Carrington Cheyenne Smith
Laila Yolanda Spatcher
Jade Sharon Stephens
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Kate-Lynn Gabrielle Thomas
Kevin Lamar Thomas
Cameron Paige Thompson
Riley Marie Tison
Nathanael Dwayne Vroman

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Lawrence Taylor West
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Graduation Thursday, May 23

6:30 p.m.

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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.

Tuesday, April 30

Benjamin Cecil Cox, 59, of Callahan: Violation of Probation Community Control

Thursday, May 2

John Ernest Edwards, 62, of Hilliard: Battery on a Person older than 65 years old

Christopher Dewayne Sheffield, 38, of Hilliard: Out of County Warrant; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Friday, May 3

Aaron Lee Johnson, 26, of Callahan: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon
Sarah Renee Tripp, 34, of Hilliard: Disorderly Intoxication; Disturbing the Peace

Presidential Primary Post-Election Audit

Nassau County Supervisor of Elections Janet H. Adkins shared the Post Election Audit results from the March 19, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary. On Wednesday, April 3, the Nassau County Canvassing Board met to certify the results of the Post Election Audit. The audit was completed with 100% accuracy, and the results can be viewed at Audit Results.pdf (cdn-website.com).

Pursuant to F.S. 101.591, "An automated audit shall consist of a public automated tally of the votes cast across every race that appears on the ballot. The tally sheet shall include election day, vote-by-mail, early voting, provisional, and overseas ballots in at least 20 percent of the precincts chosen at random by the county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election."

The Independent Audit system allows Nassau County to exceed the 20% audit requirement. Nassau County conducts an audit of all precincts, all ballots, and all races. This system is completely independent of our tabulation system.

Once the ballots have been processed in the tabulation system, they are separately scanned into the Independent Audit equipment. The Canvassing Board then compares the results from the two systems. "Our office strives to build trust with voters and ensure an accurate election. We can achieve that by surpassing statutory requirements and completing 100% audit of all precincts," said Adkins.

For more updates and information, visit our website or download the Vote Nassau FL elections mobile app to check your voter information and status."



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BETTY J. ANDERSON



Betty J. Anderson, 79, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully Thursday, May 2, 2024, in her sleep. She was born February 9, 1945 in Blakely, Georgia, to the late Joseph W. Jones and Mary C. Jones. Betty was a stay-at-home mom until her children were almost teenagers. She later worked in the dietary industry at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville for 22 years and retired in May 2000. Betty was one of the best mothers and grandmothers you could ever have. All who knew her loved her and everyone called her Gma. Betty never met a stranger and was always willing to help others. She enjoyed dancing, doing puzzles and spending time with her family. Big family gatherings were her favorite. Betty will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. Betty is preceded in death by her parents; brother Bobby Jones; sister Mary L. Betts; and granddaughter Brittany Grimes.

Betty is survived by her three daughters, Teresa (Timmy) Fedick, Barbara Starling and Mary (Victor) Grimes; four grandchildren Joshua Courchene, Christie (Austin) VanZant, Joseph Courchene and Carrie (Marcus) Mullis; seven great-grandchildren Chloe Mullis, Danica Courchene, Aubrie VanZant, Parker Courchene, Jace VanZant, Dallyn Courchene and Leland Mullis.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 10 at 12 p.m. prior to the celebration of life service at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

PATRICIA ANN FLOWERS



Patricia Ann Flowers, 85, of Callahan, passed away peacefully at her home April 25, 2024. She was born September 27, 1938 in Charlotte, North

OBITUARIES

Carolina, to the late Chalmers and H. Orlean Gibbs. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Charles Flowers; and daughter Teresa Flowers.

Patricia leaves behind a few nephews, a niece, and many special friends who were more like family.

A graveside service for Patricia was held Saturday, May 4 at Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

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

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

GILBERT LAWRENCE HANSEN



Gilbert "Gil" Lawrence Hansen, 91, of Hilliard, passed away May 4, 2024, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born November 8, 1932 in



Springfield, MA, to the late Elmer L. Hansen and Edith Anderson Hansen. Mr. Hansen proudly served his country in the US Navy Reserves for 8 1/2 years during the Korean Conflict. He was a graduate of Springfield College where he was a member of the swim team. After 30 years of dedicated employment, he retired from Kraft foods as a salesman. In his spare time, he was an avid woodworker and cabinet maker and loved to garden. Mr. Gil was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Boulougne. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his granddaughter Suzanne Mazzola.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Connie Hansen; seven daughters Carol Ann Shulz, Cynthia (Ernie) Roberts, Marilyn McElroy, Janet (Don) Free, Julie Geiger, Jennifer (Ray) Gilliland and Jill (Patrick) Rodman; two step-daughters Debbie

(John) McCullough and Teresa (Larry) Wireman; a step-son Bob Logan; and many grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Monday, May 13 at 10 a.m. prior to the funeral service at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Boulougne with Pastor Paul Lucas officiating. Burial will follow in Jacksonville National Cemetery with Military Honors provided by the US Navy.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

RUTH E. HICKS



Ruth E. Hicks, 99, of Bryceville, passed away peacefully at her home April 24, 2024, with her family by her side. She was born November 30, 1924, in Atlanta, Georgia to the late H.A. Evans and Gwynne Smith Evans. Ruth was a homemaker and took pride in nurturing for her family. She was a long-time member of Dinsmore Baptist Church where she loved to worship and serve her Lord and Savior. She enjoyed reading Amish books and visiting Ohio Amish country. Ruth was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother that will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Loyd Hicks; daughter Gwynne Lamm; great-grandson Thomas "Bubba" Nazworth; and great-great-grandson Hunter Miller.

Ruth leaves behind her grandson Ray "Peanut" Lamm; granddaughters Lisa Frasure, Jennie Milberger and Heather Lamm; great-grandchildren Valerie, Brianna, Danielle, Garrett, Tyler and Riley;

great-great-grandchildren Brayden, Rayan, Ethan, Mason, Lily and Roman.

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

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

MARY V. HIGGINBOTHAM



Mary Violet Higginbotham, 91, of Jacksonville, gained her angel wings May 3, 2024. She was born February 1, 1933, to William and Mary Danson. She

attended Callahan High School; and worked at Danson Dairy with her father; and was a full-time homemaker. Mary married the love of her life Ray J. Higginbotham on June 10, 1949, and they shared 56 wonderful years together. She was the mother of four children: Barbara Ann Higginbotham (deceased), Wayne Higginbotham, Elsie Anglea and June Kirkland. Mary loved spending time with her family, being outdoors, cooking, fishing, hunting, playing bunco, and gardening. She was very well known for her homemade fruit cakes and her strawberry fig jelly. Mary was preceded in death by her parents; husband Ray J. Higginbotham; brothers John Henry Danson, William "Bill" E. Danson and Charlie Danson; daughter Barbara Ann; and nephew George Danson.

Mary leaves behind her children Wayne (Nina) Higginbotham, Elsie (Del) Anglea and June Kirkland (Victor Musselwhite); grandchildren Allison (Cliff) Hutcheson, Lesley (Wade) Kemp, Elayne (Kevin) Richey, Brian (Christie) Anglea, Justin Kirkland and Jame Kirkland; step-grandchildren Trisha (Nick) Pilotta, Willeen Slay and Dana (Johnny) Lopez; 23 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; and one great-great-great-grandchild.

Pallbearers were Cliff Hutcheson, Brian Anglea, Justin Kirkland, Lance Pickett, Hunter Hutcheson, Bryce Woods, Garrett

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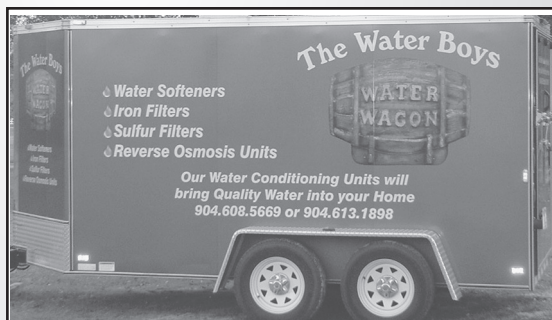
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Anglea and Michael Pilotta. Honorary pallbearers were Donnie Kirkland, Ray Miley, Billy Whitaker and Dale Baldwin.

A celebration of Mary's life was held Tuesday, May 7 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Jeff Carter officiating. Interment followed at Edgewood Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service. Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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

HANNAH KRISTEN MCKELVY



Hannah Kristen McKelvy, 16, of Bryceville, passed away May 1, 2024, following a tragic accident. She was born on June 5, 2007, in Jacksonville to Shaun and Terisia McKelvy. Our Hannah was one of a kind. She was a beautiful and outgoing 16-year-old who was looking forward to her birthday and turning 17. Hannah had a heart of gold and always led with it. She never was the person you had to tell to do the right thing-she just did it.

Hannah was a Senior Master Sergeant in the JROTC at West Nassau. She loved participating in Raiders and was good at it. But what Hannah was most passionate about was flying. Hannah had been flying out of Fernandina Beach airport and was planning to attend East Carolina University in June. She earned a \$25,000 scholarship from the Air Force Flight Academy and was set to graduate from there in July with her private pilot's license.

Hannah loved her family, friends and going to church. She enjoyed going on trips to the mountains and new adventures. When she was home, she spent a lot of time with her friends going to the beach, Target, hanging with her cousin's poolside, going to the gym, and eating cheese dip. Hannah was meticulous; she kept journals, notes on sermons, and was well organized-everything had its place.

We love our baby girl unconditionally and she will be deeply missed. Our family will never be the same without her. However, we know that she is still here; she gave her heart to a 9-year-old girl, her liver went to two different children, and her kidney to another. All transplants were successful for the recipients. Without Hannah, those 4 miracles would not have happened. We rest easy knowing our daughter is walking the streets of gold with JESUS! He only takes the best and she was the very best of us all.

She is preceded in death by her great-grandmother Alma Carroll; great-grandfathers Clarence D. Carter and Ronald A. McKelvy, Sr.

Hannah is survived by her parents, Shaun and Terisia McKelvy; her brothers Nolan

OBITUARIES

and Dallas McKelvy; her grandparents Dennis and Catherine Anderson and Ronald and Deborah McKelvy; her great-grandparents Clifford Carroll, Leon (Alice) Anderson and Gertrude Carter; her aunts Elyse (Robert) Weimann, Ashley McKelvy, Raechel McKelvy and Rebecca (Derek) Bigelow; and several great uncles, aunts, cousins, and extended family.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, May 8 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Hannah's life will be held Thursday, May 9 at 2 p.m. at The Anchor Church of God with Pastor Ethan Thompson officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery.

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

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

RUTH MANNING POLITANO



Ruth Manning Politano, 86, of Callahan, passed away April 30, 2024. Ruth was born August 20, 1937 in Miami, Florida, to the late Mack Manning and Ruth Sawyer Manning. Ruth was known for her kindness and will be forever missed by those who loved her. She is preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Anthony Politano, Jr.; and granddaughter Jessica Politano.

She is survived by her three children Gina Politano, Gary Politano and Janet (Jimmy) Nix; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A private service was held.

LILYA FORSYTHE SMITH



Lilya Mailelani Forsythe-Smith, 78, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully April 19, 2024 at her daughter's home in Bryceville. She was born April 7, 1946, in Chicago, Illinois to the late George Eldredge Forsythe and Leah Bernice Monson-Forsythe. In Lilya's younger years, she helped with the family business hosting, catering and entertaining luaus for prominent elites traveling from Hawaii to Mainland U.S. and even to the White House. She studied real estate and enjoyed modeling.

Later in life, Lilya's focus was on her family and raising her children. For several years, Lilya worked with the Boy Scouts of America. She helped with starting new Local Chapters, re-wrote the Boy Scout manual, and organized local events. Lilya

loved the holidays, especially Christmas. She expressed her love by cooking her father's special Hawaiian chicken and a ham for Christmas dinner. Lilya adored her father and it stood as a constant reminder of her memories and the love she had for him. Lilya was a hardworking, caring woman that was always willing to lend a hand to help in any way or simply to be a listening ear. She will be missed dearly by all who had the honor of knowing her. Lilya is preceded in death by her parents; sister Eulani "Lani" Joyce Forsythe; and daughter RaeAnna Lea McEachern.

Lilya leaves behind her loving daughters Dawn Michelle Wrye and Laura Mahealani Rattz; sister Georgeanne "Lulu" Lulunoelani Forsythe; grandchildren Amber Grace Bennie, Jade David Earl Matteson, Jayleen Seabrea Parrott, Jason Sean Rattz, Jesse Aaron McEachern and Breanna Lea McEachern; great-grandchildren Damen Reese Sheffield, Dakota Blaze Sheffield and Dalilah Star Sheffield; nephews Mel Warren Funk and Daryl Gordon Funk; and niece Michele Denise Kohl.

A memorial service for Lilya was held Friday, May 3 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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. Those who spent any small

amount of time around Sydney knew she had a BIG, BOLD personality. You knew where you stood with Sydney. She loved everything about the outdoors; mudding, trips to the beach and the river, but she also enjoyed her downtime at home. Sydney had a love for animals and showed livestock in the Nassau County 4-H program. She was attending Nassau Virtual School and was set to graduate this year. She will graduate posthumously and her parents will receive her diploma. She is preceded in death by her grandparents Gary and Ruth Weiscopef; and her grandfather Steve Rogers.

Sydney leaves behind a family who will cherish her memory for a lifetime; her parents Mike and Sherry Weiscopef, Sr. of Bryceville; siblings Ashley (Shane) Abbott of Keystone Heights, Michael (Kylie) Weiscopef, Jr. of St. Johns, Myranda (Leah Maholmes) Anderson of Oceanway, Danielle (Evan) Barrett of Macclenny and Mykenzie Francis of Jacksonville; grandmother Linda Rogers; nieces and nephews Marlee, Maelyn, McGraw, Carter, Aria, EJ and Henry to be expected; aunts and uncles Michelle and Tracy Jones, William "Buck" and Lacey Rogers and Christine and Scott Gorman; and her best friend Ella Baker.

A celebration of life service was held Saturday, May 4 at Gainey Pines, 1845 Kinard Road, Bryceville. A reception followed.

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.

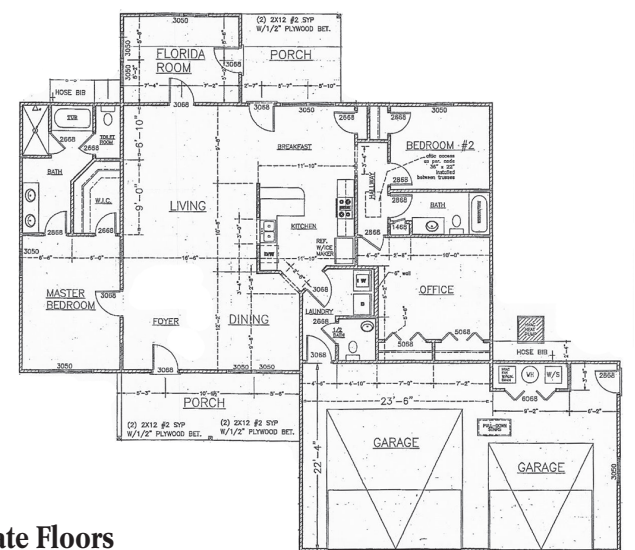
Condolences may be expressed at: www.forbesfuneralhome.net.

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All my love always and forever,
Rhonda Rogers



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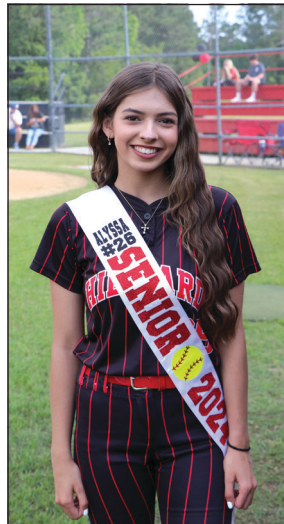
For upcoming Kinder students & parents who have submitted a registration packet with the guidance office.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15
2 - 3 P.M.

Hilliard Baseball & Softball Seniors



Congratulations to Hilliard baseball seniors: Jackson Pinker, Taylor West, Cameron Bennett and Isaac Hunter, shown with Coach Larry West.



Congratulations to Hilliard softball senior, Alyssa Roussin.

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Temporary Shelter
Transitional Housing/Shelter
Pathways to Success

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FRIDAY, MAY 10
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All Day Unlimited Rides: 5 p.m. - Midnight \$30
Moonlight Madness: 9 p.m. - Midnight \$25

SATURDAY, MAY 11
Free Admission with Paid Armband at Gate
Matinee Unlimited Rides: 2 - 6 p.m. \$20
All Day Unlimited Rides: 2 p.m. - Midnight \$30

SUNDAY, MAY 12
Mother's Day - Free Admission for Moms & Moms Ride Free with Paid Children!
Free Admission with Paid Armband at Gate
Matinee Unlimited Rides: 2 - 6 p.m. \$20
All Day Unlimited Rides: 2 p.m. - Midnight \$30

FREE ADMISSION FOR MOMS ON MOTHER'S DAY!

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- Extreme Strong Man
- Banana Derby
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