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WESTSIDE JOURNAL



VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 47

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

"FATHERS, DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN TO ANGER, BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD." - EPHESIANS 6:4

Boondocks Junction has New Owners

Dawn S. West

Boondocks Junction Music Hall, in Hilliard, has recently changed ownership. Boondocks, located in downtown Hilliard on Pecan Street, has quite a history to share. The building was owned by Gerald and Daphne Guynn. Gerald inherited the building after his father's passing in 2007. His father was Troy 'Boss Hog' Guynn. Troy was well known in Hilliard as he served as the mayor for 15 years and councilman for four years. "He was a jack of all trades.



It seems like he had his hand in about everything," said Gerald. "He was very talented. He knew vehicles and could work on any."

The actual building was built sometime in the 1900's. The building served as the town's commissary for the pulp industry. It was the place where people came and got their goods. "It was in the town square and a great place for people to socialize," said Daphne.



"The building originally had an upstairs and there were seven rooms

where people could stay," added Gerald. "Looking over at the wall, you can still see where the stairs were. My dad took off the top floor and added the room on the side. He (Troy) planned to build the place back up but instead filled it with his treasures."

The building basically sat dormant, but was full of stuff for several years. In May 2016, Daphne and Gerald's daughter was getting married and they were looking for a venue. Everything was so expensive to rent, the idea came up to get married in the building. From that time, the family began the process of cleaning out the barn and seeing what was actually in there. With lots of help the building was empty but pretty sad looking. Their daughter had the great idea to pull all the paneling off the walls. It was so nice. The wood was in good shape and the planning began. Gerald handled most of the handy work that needed to be done, while the ladies continued their vision. The wedding was beautiful and once people saw it they were hooked. They began receiving requests and questions about Boondocks.

See 'Boondocks Junction' on page 3

Bryceville Community Club Holds Last Meeting

Pat Zeorlin, President

On Tuesday, May 17, the Bryceville Community Club held their final meeting. Following is a little history about the club.

The Bryceville Community Club was established in 1987 and just celebrated their 35th year. The club was originally established in order to assist citizens of the Bryceville community if they needed special help such as a ride to a medical appointment, extra food, money, clothing, etc.

Bryceville was a small community then and most of the people knew one another.

The founding members included: Donald Surrency, Ethel Holton, Helen Ford, Lenora Jones, Sylvia Alsip, Lula Boyd, Onie Ruth Lallament and Elizabeth Whittemore. Although all of the founders have now passed away, many of their descendants still live in the Bryceville area. At that time, the club met in the volunteer Fire Station on US 301. Bylaws were drawn up for the club and revised in 2006.

Currently, the club has 33 members. Over the years, the club came to be known as a 'must visit' stop on local politician's places to campaign. Prior to the elections, the club would invite persons running in local elections to come and speak to its members. Each person was allowed three minutes to tell who they were and why they were running for a particular office. Constitutional amendments and other items on the ballot were also discussed.

Non-political meetings featured speakers from many different areas of interest. In recent years, the Bryceville Community Club has sponsored the 'Good Citizenship Award' for students at Bryceville Elementary School. The quarterly award was given at each grade level to a student who, although they may not be an "A" student, was a good citizen to their fellow students. The award included a certificate from the club and



Bryceville Community Club Officers shown (l to r) are: Pat Zeorlin, Alice Neader and Phil Morton. (Not pictured Pinky Kirkland)

a two-dollar bill. Recently, the club has provided Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for Bryceville Elementary School families in need of special help during the holiday. During recent Christmas seasons, the club also provided new shoes for students needing them.

Editors note: This is one of those stories I was not happy to publish, as I hate to see the club come to an end. The Bryceville Community Club was such a wonderful group of people. Most of the times I visited the club, was for the Citizenship Awards for the students. The students were so happy to get the awards and then got to stay for a great lunch afterwards. I was asked to speak one time at the club, about our paper. We all went out and were greeted with such sweet attentive people. I also remember that each month, birthdays were announced for club members and cards sent to them. They also made sure to update the members on those that were in the hospital or anyone in need of help of any kind. Each meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Mr. Pat and Mrs. Betty Zeorlin have poured their hearts into the club each and every month. It was a one-of-a kind club that will truly be missed by many. Thank you for your many years of service to the Bryceville community!

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A Word From the Publisher

Welcome summer! I am so thankful that we (Floridians) had a super nice spring. It's been a long time since we enjoyed more than a week of spring before the HOT temperatures came in. Well, I just wanted to remind everyone that we did have several weeks but now that's gone. Now it's time to make sure you stay hydrated, always have your sunglasses and make sure your air conditioner is in good shape. The summertime heat has arrived! I'm so thankful I work inside and praying for those who work outside. It gives me such appreciation for those that do work outside every day.

This Sunday is Father's Day! I am so thankful to still have both of my parents and they continue to be a huge part of my (our) life. Actually, I am blessed to have the best parents in the whole world! And I mean it. My dad...is one of a kind. He has such a great sense of humor, his smile lights up any room, he's crazy at times, he's a faithful servant to the Lord, he loves my mom and he loves his children. These are just a few qualities of my dad.

As a child growing up, we always had things going on. There were five children and usually we lived in a small home. Well, it didn't seem small to us. I think our first house in Callahan had three bedrooms (2 girls shared and 3 boys shared rooms), a kitchen, one bathroom and a living room. Thinking back...we survived. Were we on top of each other, probably! Did it matter? Nope! Times for us children growing up were times going to school, coming home doing homework and playing outside. Summertime, we were always outside playing and listening

for Mama's strong whistle to come home. We, children, thought we were in heaven when we moved into the big two-story house in Callahan. The house had 4 bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs (all for the children), a big living room, my parent's bedroom, a bathroom and kitchen downstairs. To us, it was huge! We learned as we grew older, with our parents room located directly under the creaky stairs that was no sneaking around at night. They heard everything! Sweet memories! I'm so thankful for my childhood.

My dad was and still is a man of discipline. We had rules in our home and they were to be followed. We got spanked as children and we learned from it. I still get chills when I hear my dad's voice change and I feel like I've disappointed him. It cuts to the bone. I am truly blessed.

No matter what your story is about, your upbringing or your home life, just know that your heavenly father cares much more for you than what I have described in my father. Our Father God never changes. He is the same today, tomorrow and forever. He loves and cares for us. He breathed life into us. He is the reason we are here today. I pray God's blessings to all fathers for strength and courage to let God be your guide in your life today. For the fatherless, you always have our Heavenly Father. He's waiting for you today. All you have to do is ask Him to come into your life today.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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Boondocks Junction

Continued from page 1

They decided to name the building Boondocks Junction Music Hall, in honor of Troy. He loved music and hoped to one day make the building a music hall for concerts. From there, they made a Facebook page and began advertising the Boondocks as a venue for any events. "We have had many weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, etc." said Daphne. "It kind of went crazy. I never knew so many people were looking for places to have events. We have been so blessed."

In October 2017, Gerald was in a horrific motorcycle accident that almost took his life. The accident left him paralyzed from the waist down. Life has been different but also much more difficult. The Guynns finally decided it was time to try to sell.

Monday the closing was held and the Guynns have turned over the keys for Boondock Junction to Jarred and Brittany Cales. The couple and their sweet daughter, Amelia, are currently living in Yulee. Both have lived in Hilliard previously but really feel like this was a 'God thing' for them

to have the opportunity to purchase this property. "I love hosting and I've thought about having a venue for a while," said Brittany.

"We've always wanted to have a deeper connection with the town of Hilliard and surrounding communities. We decided having the year 1881 part of the venue name would help bring a sense of community, given the historical nature of when Hilliard was officially founded," said Jarred. "Adding 1881 to the word 'occasions' is defined as: a particular event with cause. We felt combining the two words, 1881 Occasions, gets at the heart of our mission: Bringing forth a greater sense of community to the Glory of our God. We look forward to serving the community whether it's weddings, birthday parties, community events and so much more!"

All the couples involved were so pleased with their realtor, Jennifer Mezera, who went over and above to make sure all parties involved were happy. They welcomed the transition with ease! Congratulations!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

In this country every liberal is offended by anything and everything that does not conform to their opinion. They don't realize that freedom of speech...gives anyone on earth the right to offend you. Oh yeah, it does. Freedom of thought on the other hand...gives you the option as to whether or not you choose to be offended by them. Being offended is a choice that you make. It's not inflicted on you. It's not imposed on you...by anyone or anything. Being offended is a weakness. It's an insidious seed that grows inside of you and disempowers you from the inside out. Remember that, the next time you CHOOSE to be offended. Such true words shared by John Givens.

Nayib Bukele, the President of El Salvador (of all places) stated, "The most powerful country in the world is falling so fast, that it makes you rethink what are the real reasons. Something so big and powerful can't be destroyed so quickly, unless the enemy comes from within."

It's sad that our demise is so readily recognized by outsiders but not by our very own citizens. Of course, it has been said that 1% controls our world; 4% are just sellout puppets; 90% are asleep; and 5% know and are trying to wake up the 90%. Of course, the 1% doesn't want the 5% waking up the 90%. Yes, the enemy is from within, it is called the Democratic Party. One has to be totally blind not to see what is happening in

America.

Does anyone truly believe our open borders is not a plan of the socialists? Do any of you really believe we have a gas shortage because of Russia? How about a food shortage because of natural occurrences? Do you really believe our 40-year high inflation rate is because of the pandemic and the Russian war? Do you really believe the story from the White House last week which stated by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, "What I'm trying to say to you is the economy is in a better place than it has been historically." Do you really believe as also stated by the White House that Biden has created more jobs in his first year than any other administration ever?

If by chance you do believe any of the above, I have some ocean front property in Arizona you may be interested in. If you don't think that Humanity is under mind control, just look at how they treat and react towards anyone who tries to think freely and be free. A statement from the Mind Journal sums it up fairly well, "You won't realize until the end that they have been lying to you from the beginning. You were in love with a complete illusion, a lie, and a fraud. Welcome to the world of narcissistic manipulation."

Even if you're not totally convinced, there has to be something within your soul that's telling you something isn't right with any of this.

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

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Trust and Prayer in the Face of Our Trials

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



When we are faced with trials in our lives, how do we react? When we think about surrendering to God's will in these trials, what comes to mind? Do we only think about the times when we choose obedience right away and thus can move forward in God's will? Are we honest enough with ourselves to admit when we have chosen rebellion?

Let us face it. There are times when we will not like what the Lord's will for us is during these trials. Not because God's will for us is bad, but because we think we know better. This is rebellion, no other word for it. Sometimes we do not want to do what He wants us to do. Sometimes we do not want to love on the person He wants us to love on. Sometimes we do not want to go where God tells us to go. We cry out to God saying, "God, you just do not understand! I cannot do that." Jonah found himself in this very situation. Instead of surrendering Jonah found himself running from God. Despite his efforts, there was nowhere to go. God is everywhere. This is something that should be comforting to us in our trials. God hears us no matter where we are. We can go to God on our knees and cast our cares at the foot of the Jesus' cross.

As necessary as prayer is in these situations, prayer should not be something we turn to only in emergencies. There are times of prayer, supplication, praise and thanksgiving. Prayer should be a time of intimacy with God. An everyday dialogue that we seek with our Good Father. Our God is a God who hears all our prayers. God knows our very thoughts. He knows what we need without us having to say a word. Yet, He wants this special time with us, and He wants us to voice our prayers to Him. God also wants us to be humble in our attitude toward Him. Not only should prayer be a time humbled before God, but what we expect must be tempered as well.

Not only does God hear our prayers, but God also answers our prayers. How we perceive these answers to prayer is reflected in our faith. Are we expecting God to answer our prayers the way we want them answered? When they are answered, and we do not like the answer, do we accept the answer? Do we get upset? We need to trust in God and His will. Romans 8:28 teaches us that God works all things out for His glory and our good.

Next time we are facing a trial that seems overwhelming, let us remember Romans 8:28. Let us go to God in prayer. Let us be bold in the asking and humble in our expectations. Let us remember that God's will is sovereign, and we can place our trust in Him.



MOVIE NIGHT at THE HILLIARD LIBRARY

The Nassau County Public Library System is happy to present a Movie Night at the Hilliard Library. The movie night will be held Thursday, June 23 at 5 p.m. The movie will be: Spiderman: No Way Home! Everyone: young and old are invited! This is a FREE event. Refreshments will be provided.

Callahan Little League 10U Champs!



Congratulations to the Callahan Dragons on their recent championship win, making them the 10U Champions. The team was ranked 4th out of 4 teams but played hard to bring home the win! Congratulations to these little players!

The team members are: Lawson Simons, Cody Hess, Jake Terry, Liam Cason, Tyler Suttles, Felix "Baloo" Johnson, Maccoy Ford, Brantlee Freeman, Armondo Soto, Jackson Catrett and Wyatt Bennett. The coaches are Jimmy Hess, Chris Guida and Shane Ford; and team moms Alaina Hess and Jessica Simons.

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CHURCH NEWS

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NARFE Meeting Tuesday in Callahan

Gregory A. D'Alessio, President

Chapter 2273 of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Assn.) will meet Tuesday, June 21 at 11 a.m. at The Pig Bar-B-Q, 450102 SR 200 in Callahan for lunch on your own. The formal program will begin at noon. All active and retired federal and postal employees and their families are encouraged to attend.

Our guest speakers will be Hupp Huppman and Paul Lore. Hupp and

Paul were two of the four local veterans that rowed across the Atlantic to raise funds for Veterans care. In addition, Chris Miller, the Chief of Staff for Congressman Rutherford will be attending.

Chapter 2273 has regular luncheon meetings the third Tuesday of the each month, except December. For more information and non-members, contact Greg D'Alessio at 904-347-3338.

Blue Fire Theatre Auditions

Toni D'Amico

Blue Fire Theatre was created in July 2018 to expand the love of theatre in Nassau County and the surrounding area. We passionately believe theatre plays an essential role in not only entertainment, but developing conversation, strengthening emotional thinking, and connecting with our community. We feel that by producing theatre experiences that tell powerful, uplifting, funny and heartwarming stories, we are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Open Casting Call for Blue Fire Theatre's production of Neil Simon's Last of the Red Hot Lovers, directed by Laura Swaim. In-person auditions will be held Saturday, June 25, Registration will be from 3-3:30 p.m.; Auditions from 3:30-5 p.m. Auditions will consist of reading from the script. Production dates are, September 16, 17, 23, 24 at 7:30 p.m. and September 17, 24 at



2:30 p.m. Auditions, rehearsals and production will all be held at the Yulee Lions Club, 851023 Highway 17, Yulee.

Laura Swaim has a degree in theatre from Indiana State University and currently teaches drama at Yulee High School. She has acted in and directed numerous productions in community theatres locally as well as in Pennsylvania and Indiana.

If you are unable to attend the audition, or have any other questions please email us prior to Saturday, June 25 at auditions@bluefiretheatre.org. One male and three females are needed. Complete details, character descriptions and synopsis of the show can be found at: www.BlueFireTheatre.org.

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Ruby Howard Celebrates 90th Birthday



Ms. Ruby Howard, of Callahan, celebrated her 90th birthday on June 5. She celebrated this past Saturday by making her 6th tandem jump out of an airplane in Fernandina Beach with a crowd watching! This year, she invited one of her doctors, Dr. Alan Miller, to jump with her. The two, along with others, met at the Fernandina Airport Saturday and jumped. She was thrilled once again and excited her doctor jumped with her! Jumping out of the plane is truly something she enjoys and looks forward to.

Ms. Ruby was surprised on her birthday at church with a surprise party in her honor. One of the sweet ladies even made her a special hat.

Ms. Ruby has four children Robert Howard and Janet Johnson, both of Callahan, and Fred and Ronald Howard (both deceased). She also has numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



Charlie Michael Norden

Mitchell and Dr. Mekayla (Mekera) Norden, of Tampa, are pleased to announce the birth of their son Charlie Michael Norden. Charlie was born June 6, 2022 at 8:20 a.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and measured 21.5 inches.

Maternal grandparents are Michael and Jessica Mekara of Hilliard.

Paternal grandparents are Neil and Shannon Norden of Tampa.



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or e-mail louis@jaxum.com.**

New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Davis, III

Kellie A. Dohm and Robert M. Davis, III were united in marriage Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in Fernandina Beach.

The bride is the daughter of Leah Morris of Orange Park and the late Paul Dohm. She is employed with the IRS in Jacksonville.

The groom is the son of Robby and Latashia Davis of Hilliard. He is employed with Big Ben Timber Services.

Serving as bridesmaids were Alicia Dohm, Alanah Dohm, Kim Dohm and Kristina Douglas. Serving as groomsmen were Robby Davis, Michael Bryant, Kaden May and Adam Smith.

Following a honeymoon on Amelia Island, the couple is residing in Hilliard.



Larry "Bubba" Rhoden BBQ Dinner Fundraiser Saturday



This Saturday, June 18, a BBQ Chicken & Pork dinner Fundraiser will be held to benefit Larry "Bubba" Rhoden. The event will be held at AA Bottled Gas on SR 200, directly across from Popeye's in Callahan. The event will begin at 11 a.m. with dinners ready for pick up. Please make it a point to go by and pick up a couple of dinners or drop off a donation for the family.

Recently, Bubba was diagnosed with Advanced ALS. Bubba is a traveling worker for CSX. In August, he was working for a month in Chicago. He returned a few days early with slurred speech and was very weak. His wife, Jessica, immediately got him in with his primary doctor. After numerous tests, several doctor visits, including neurologists and specialists while also dealing with weakness and weight loss, Bubba was diagnosed with Advanced ALS in March. The family continues to learn more about this devastating condition and sees the quick loss of muscle tone through his body. Our prayers go to this sweet family that have two children at home, Chloe, 11, and Celton, 15 as well as two grown boys.

The breakfast club, that meets at The Sheik every Saturday morning, had a big part in organizing this special event for the Rhoden family. The club also decided to make the day complete by preparing lunch plates for the eight Fire Stations in the county and having them delivered to the stations. All NCSO deputies and employees are also invited to come by and pick up a dinner. We appreciate and are thankful for our First Responders! This is just one way to say Thank You!

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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.

Friday, June 3
 David Everett Boone, 49, 54588 Marlee Road, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Driving While License Suspended with Knowledge 2nd Conviction

Monday, June 6
 John Hayden Thomas, 34, 45090 Airstream Avenue C, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Wednesday, June 8
 Brandon Duane Esses, 32, 3738 Finch Drive, Hilliard: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance (x 2); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

NCCCOA Offers Activities at Westside Senior Life Center in Hilliard

Plan to join us at NCCCOA's newly refurbished Westside Senior Life Center, 37002 Ingham Road in Hilliard, for afternoon activities in June. Activities are free, but require registration by contacting Missy Snead, Activities Coordinator, at msnead@nassaucountycoa.org or 904-675-9533.

June 2022:

Friday, June 17, 2 - 4 p.m. - Movie "Father of the Bride" with popcorn & cookies!

Tuesdays, June 21 & 28, 1 - 3 p.m. - Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"

Wednesdays, June 22 & 29; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Line Dancing with Tonya

Thursday, June 23, 3 - 4 p.m. - Book Club with Laurel Sphar, MLIS, Nassau County Branch Librarian



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Life Care Center of Hilliard now hiring **RNs and LPNs**, must have FL License. Please apply in person to: 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard or fax resume to 904-845-9487, or email to: Loren_Reddish@lcca.com<mailto:Loren_Reddish@lcca.com>. tfn

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LOOKING FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF for individuals who are developmentally challenged. Must have HS Diploma or GED and pass background screening. Yulee/Fernandina area, call or text 904-507-9976 for more information. tfn

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Unison Behavioral Health is seeking a full time **CASE MANAGER** in our Charlton clinic to provide a broad range of social services to clients and their families. Participates in treatment team planning and performs crisis intervention. Assists in dealing with personal and social problems. Serve as a liaison for social services. Perform case management duties, education and skills building. Required Minimum Qualifications: HS Diploma and three years experience in social services. Prior case-management experience preferred. Bachelor's degree and one year experience preferred. tfn

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EMPLOYMENT CONT.

Unison Behavioral Health is seeking a full time **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER** in our Charlton clinic to manage and direct the clinical activities and daily operations of a comprehensive behavioral health program. Oversees the program's policies regarding participant involvement, requirements and staff expectations. Supervise, plan and evaluate work activities of assigned staff. Provides group therapy, individual therapy and assessments for Charlton program clients. *Free Clinical Supervision and sign on bonus of \$1000* Required Minimum Qualifications: Master's degree and pursuing licensure, and 1 year experience in a Social Services related position. (LMFT, LPC, LCSW) Full licensure preferred. Application at http://www.unisonbehavioralhealth.com (Join Our Team). tfn

WANTED LANDSCAPE LABORERS, no experience or license needed. Call Danny at 904-251-4963. tfn

SANDHILL RECYCLING is hiring for **DIESEL MECHANIC**, must have previous experience. Please call 904-225-2801 to set up an interview. 61622

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YARD SALES

FATHER'S DAY BAZAAR at Bethany Episcopal Church, Friday, June 17 from 5-7 p.m. BBQ pork dinners w/2 sides and drink, \$8. Take Out or Eat In! Bazaar consists of plants, yard art and baked goods for Father's Day!

VFW POST 10095 YARD SALE, Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., across from the Hilliard Airpark. Lots of new donations. \$5 Bag Day! Come and help support our Veterans!

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HARRY PHILLIP HURST



Harry Phillip Hurst, 73, passed away suddenly June 10, 2022 at his home in Hilliard. He was born August 6, 1948 to Andrew Calvin, Sr. and Mary Maxine (Leggett) Hurst in Jacksonville. Harry lived most of his life in Duval and Nassau counties and graduated from Paxon Sr. High School in 1966. He was an over the road trucker for some years; served as a Deputy over 10 years for the Nassau County Sheriff's Department; and later was a bulk mail carrier. Harry officially retired in 2011 and has been living a quiet life since then. To know Harry was to love him. He had a great personality and was big as life itself. Harry had a huge heart and always made you feel loved. He was an avid motorcyclist who toured the United States and Canada. Harry loved the Blue Ridge Mountains, especially the Great Smoky Mountains, which will become his final resting place in the late fall.

Harry was preceded in death by his son Randall Phillip Hurst; grandson Michael James Hurst, Jr.; and six brothers, Freddy Hurst, Charles Jackson Hurst, Andrew Calvin Hurst, Jr., Gordon Arthur Hurst, Kenneth Edward Hurst and Stanley Robert Hurst.

Harry is survived by his daughter Tammy (Frank) Moran of Waycross; son Michael James "Jaime" Hurst (Sherri Lewis) of Hoboken; sister Joyce Elizabeth (Henry) Smith of Macclenny; two sisters-in-law Selena Hurst and Donna Hurst; special friends Randle (Marie) Reeves and Linda Brooks; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends.

A celebration of Harry's life was held Wednesday, June 15 at Nassau Funeral

OBITUARIES

Home with Pastor Mitchell Deems officiating. 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.

JEFFREY CHARLES KEGLEY



Jeffrey "Jeff" Charles Kegley, 56, of Fernandina Beach, passed away Wednesday, June 1, 2022 peacefully at his home. He was born on April 7, 1966, in Columbia County, Florida. Jeff was an avid reader, loved fishing and poker and always maintained his easy-going personality. He took pride in his work as a crane operator and his ability to make the best breakfasts for his family. He was a beloved son, brother and father who will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

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

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

GEORGE THOMAS REED



George Thomas Reed, 86, of Hilliard, passed away June 7, 2022 at the Hospice Center in Fernandina Beach. He was a lifelong resident of Hilliard. He spent his life doing what he loved as a Brick

Mason.

He was predeceased by two daughters Vicki Carver and Kay Hodge; parents Vinton and Ruth Reed; and siblings Helen Etrenne, Eula Mae Smith, Mary Lee Hodges, Jean Whittle and Leona Reed, Hubert Reed, Harry Reed and V.H. Reed.

He is survived by his children Flavius T. Reed of Hilliard, Brenda Beasley of Yulee, Faye Reed, Jeffery S. (Pat) Reed and Breanna (Drew) Reed, all of Hilliard; two stepsons Brian Rue and Nathan Dennis, both of Hilliard; two sisters Julia Ann Spurlock and Laura (Charles) Spurlock, all of Folkston; 19 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A celebration of life service will be held Thursday, June 23 at 6 p.m. at the end of Libby Road in Hilliard.

ETHELENE TILLERY SEVER



Mrs. Ethelene Tillery Sever, 91, passed away Friday, May 27, 2022, at her residence surrounded by her family. She was born on July 20, 1930 in Tifton, Georgia to the late Harley Tillery and Nancy Poole. She grew up working on a farm as a young girl. She married the first love of her life at 16-years-old. As a young adult she moved to Jacksonville, where she met the second love of her life.

Mrs. Sever is preceded in death by her husband John W. Sever; siblings Robert, Harvey, Edgar, Darrell Tillery and Cleary Fincher; children Randy Duke and Barbara Horne; grandson Jonathan A. Horne; and one great-grandchild in utero.

She is survived by five grandchildren: Timothy (Amanda) Horne, Nickie Wilcox, Larson (Abbe and Mandy) Horne, Jamie Duke and Adam Duke; and 13

grandchildren: Angel, April, Damian, Maya, Alex, Naleigh, LJ, Paisley, Trinity, Jayden, CJ, June and Kade.

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

The funeral service was held Saturday, June 12 at Hardage-Giddens Riverside Memorial Park & Funeral Home, Jacksonville. The family received friends prior to the service. Interment followed at Riverside Memorial Park, Jacksonville.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.hgriversidefuneralhome.com.

JOSHUA PAUL WILLIAMS



Joshua "Josh" Paul Williams, 36, of Hoboken, Georgia, passed away suddenly June 2, 2022. He was born March 24, 1986, in Jacksonville, to Paul Edward Williams and Judith Ingram Barkoskie. He touched an extraordinary number of lives with his huge heart and treated everyone as if they were family.

Josh's dedicated work ethic gave him success in almost anything he set his mind to. As a young adult, he loved playing baseball as lucky number 2 and was well on his way to making a career of it until an injury forced him to adjust his path. However, that didn't stop him from remaining competitive. He became a highly competitive pool player, playing events big and small across the country, and was respected by many for his talent and sportsmanship. When Josh wasn't working or competing, he loved to golf, hunt and fish. However, more than anything, Josh loved to spend quality time with his family. He will be dearly missed by all who had the honor knowing him. Josh is preceded in death by his father Paul Williams, Sr.; and his sister Ashley Williams.

He leaves behind his loving wife of four beautiful years, Samantha Kikuchi Williams; daughter Lilly Williams; mother Judy (Carl) Barkoskie; brothers Garrett (Tanya) Nimnicht and Paul (Macy) Williams, Jr.; sister Racheal Barkoskie; numerous uncles, aunts, cousins; and countless friends.

The family received friends Saturday, June 11 at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of life service followed at The Little Town Hall Event Center in Fleming Island.

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

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

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Leadership Nassau Class 20 Graduation

Leadership Nassau, a leadership development program by the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, has announced the Class 20 graduates. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the final program days and graduation ceremony were placed on hold. Recently, the class met to complete the requirements.



The program assists in the development of community leaders by providing participants from diverse backgrounds with an understanding of the problems, opportunities and issues facing the community. The program fosters the development of leadership skills and techniques in an environment that encourages the establishment of new relationships and communication between the participants.

The Leadership Nassau Class 20 Graduates are Violet Boerescu (Coldwell Banker, The Amelia Group), Chris Bouton, Melanie Brubaker, Rae Crews (WestRock), Marjanna Garvin (Rayonier Advanced Materials), Andy Godek (Baptist Medical Center Nassau), Jennifer Gregory, Jeff Little (NCBOCC), Kyle Malucci, Elizabeth O'Quinn, Tee Parker, Wayne Peterson

(Rayonier Advanced Materials), Catherine Savage (Family Support Services of North Florida), Barbara Stewart (Sadler Ranch/ Locals' Cocktail Lounge), Patty Truax Stewart, Lauren Taylor, Kristina Vickers (LignoTech Florida), Casee Walley (The Main Street America Group), and Tim Williams (Property Appraiser).

The Nassau County Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the Leadership Nassau Class 22 through Thursday, June 30. For more information, visit the Chamber website at: www.NassauCountyFLChamber.com or call (904) 261-3248. To receive an application, please email Lynne Starling at Lynne@NassauCountyFLChamber.com.

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Congratulations Lexi!

Congratulations to Alexis "Lexi" L. Barber, of Hilliard, on receiving her Master's Degree from the University of North Florida. Lexi now holds an MS (Master of Science) with a focus in athletic training, LAT (Licensed Athletic Trainer) and ATC (Athletic Trainer Certified). Lexi achieved her BS during the pandemic and didn't graduate until 2021! Lexi is a 2017 graduate of Hilliard Middle-Senior High School. Her proud parents are Shane and Kelly Barber of Hilliard. We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Allie



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News from the Nassau County Young Republicans



Ashley Benoit, NCYR
Social Media Director

Since the 50s, the Florida Federation of Young Republicans has been an organization full of passionate, competent people who want to serve and better their community. The local charter of the Nassau County Young Republicans acts as a beacon of hope, doing an excellent job of bringing people together. Their next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 21 at Gator's Dockside in Yulee at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Sheriff Bill Leeper with words of wisdom and encouragement in these hard times. Aside from having the sheriff do us this honor, we will also allow all interested candidates to be video interviewed for our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing many new faces!

The first time I went to an NCYR meeting, I immediately felt a connection. The leadership of the club listened to the members. They were able to guide conversations while agreeing, without taking control. I believe their leadership style is why the club is continuing to blossom. After several meetings and discussions, I began to find a role inside the club overseeing the social media operations.

At the May meeting, we had the pleasure of hosting Senator Aaron Bean. He remembers the stories of my father who was a career firefighter. My father died in 2013 from work-related cancer that wasn't recognized at the time. The senator recalled with me the images I shared with him years ago of my father's struggles.

The leadership of the Young Republican Club is operated by two brothers - chairman and vice chairman of the club - who both

served as Marines in Iraq. These are characteristics of people that need to be advertised. After just one single in depth conversation with either of these brothers on the topic of your choice, you will suddenly realize that they are the patriots to surround yourself with when getting involved in politics. They don't point out their glory but instead illustrate it through action.

You can tell when a person is authentic. It's natural. There is no such thing as a perfect person, let alone a perfect politician. You just must find the ones that want to serve and listen at the same time. In this rare case, I've found that they include those who want to serve without being politicians, who I greatly admire.

Also at the May meeting, candidates gave their heartfelt testimonies of why they are passionate about running for office. Candidates who are involved in the same race sat in the same room with respect and care for their opponents. This is what makes the Nassau County Young Republicans so special. We are a family that truly respects each other, even if we disagree on policy issues.

Voting is such a sacred honor and responsibility of us that recognize those that bled and died for, and I encourage each voter to research the candidates they believe is the best person for the job. You will never agree with one single candidate 100% of the time, but you can at least discern who is most likely to listen and take your issues to heart.

At the end of the day, be a part of organizations that can come together to promote a healthy collaborative community. The Nassau County Young Republicans is a great example of like-minded Americans that truly care about each other and their community.

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