

“FOR IT IS BY BELIEVING IN YOUR HEART THAT YOU ARE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD, AND IT IS BY CONFESSING WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT YOU ARE SAVED.” - ROMANS 10:10

## Epic Independence Day Celebration Held!



Congratulations to the Towns of Hilliard and Callahan for an awesome job on the planning for the July 4th Independence Day Celebration! The bands and music were off the chart, as well as the sound system. It's hard



to have good music without a good system. Many, many people are to thank for the long hours to put such an event together. The front entrance décor was so cool, as many people used that as a photo opportunity with their families... great planning. The weather caused a few issues but the show went on. When walking through the event all you could see were people laughing, talking, singing to the music and finally... in awe of the amazing fireworks. The display was one of the best! We love our community!



## Protecting Your Vote from Artificial Intelligence

Janet H. Adkins, Supervisor of Elections

There is growing discussion about artificial intelligence and how it will change our lives. With this emerging technology, the ability to create fake information is easier than ever before. As election season draws closer, this is increasingly a topic of conversation and something to think about. Understanding the capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI) is essential to protecting your vote.

Audio, video, text, and images can all be manipulated through artificial intelligence. Threats are commonly manifested through impersonations of credible sources. Examples of this could include an election website impersonation giving out false information, voice clones to create fake audio recordings of individuals to spread misinformation, or manipulation



of images to create a false narrative. While these examples have always been a threat, artificial intelligence makes it easier and faster for bad actors to create these impersonations. Recognizing these potential dangers can help you protect your vote.

First, be knowledgeable and get election information from our official website: [www.VoteNassauFL.gov](http://www.VoteNassauFL.gov). Here you will find early voting locations, dates, and times. This information is also on your sample ballot and should

arrive in your mailbox around July 10th for the August 20 election.

Second, to ensure your voter information is up-to-date, visit our website under Voters, select Update My Voter Information. This will help us keep voting lines short and ensure that you know your correct polling location on Election Day.

If you vote by mail, please note that locations of secure ballot intake stations are restricted by Florida Statute. Secure ballot intake stations are only located in our office at the James Page Governmental Complex, inside each early voting location from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. These are the only locations allowed by Florida Statute; so, if you see information that tells you otherwise, please contact our office immediately. We have also added a

button on our website's home page for Nassau County voters to report election misinformation.

If you return your ballot through the United States Postal Service, our office must receive your ballot by 7 p.m. on Election Day. While other states require that it be postmarked by Election Day, Florida Statute requires that it be received in our Elections Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day. If in doubt, please place your ballot in a secure ballot intake station. On Election Day, secure ballot intake stations will only be available at our office and the Fernandina Beach Historic Courthouse, per Florida Statute. Our team removes these ballots at the close of each day and follows a strict chain of custody procedure when handling all ballots.

See 'Protecting Your Vote' on page 2

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net) but must include a complete name. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

## Now the World Knows

Dear Editor,

We knew. The Republicans and the Democrats have known. Now the World Knows. The President is impaired. One Biden insider observed that his public exposure is limited from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the afternoon. It's called age dementia.

The Democrats have been caught colluding in the hoax of the century, shielding Joe Biden's infirmity and running a candidate for the Presidency of the United States who is incapable of carrying out the responsibilities of the job. That is why half the congressional democrats are fleeing from reporters. And they have the b----s to call Trump a liar.

The question facing American Citizens is not whether Biden should drop out of the race, but whether Biden should remain in office. Competent observers have strongly suggested that it may be dangerous to keep Biden in the office. His weakness is being felt around the globe with a new terrorist threat.

Because there is no action against aggressors, trouble makers are emboldened to do things they wouldn't in the past. The Europeans are not fooled by the Biden subterfuge. They see the cue cards in his lap when foreign dignitaries come to call. One leader said she was surprised he was able to walk out to the lectern on Thursday. Do we have to wait for World War III when he gets to say he doesn't remember because as Hurt told us, "He's an old man with a bad memory."

We must demand that Congress launch a competency hearing to substantiate what we witnessed during the debate. The "cold" excuse won't fly because it had mysteriously disappeared on Friday. Amendment 25 looms over our legislators.

God Bless us one and all. As long as the current administration occupies what has become the National Old Age Home, we are going to need it.

B. R. McConnell

## Protecting Your Vote

*Continued from page 1*

You can also sign up for ballot tracking so that you will know exactly when we received and processed your ballot. Information for this service is available at: <https://nassaufvotes.ballottrax.net/voter/>.

Election Day voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Do not wait until the last moment to vote; you must be in line by

7 p.m., as 7:01 p.m. is too late.

In short, if you see something, say something. Please call our office immediately, 904-491-7500, so that we can take appropriate action. Trust in our elections is more important than ever before and our Elections Team stands ready to serve you.

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BEFORE AFTER

# Balance and Falls

Stephen Ferry, PT, DPT  
Brooks Rehabilitation



Medical providers spend countless hours trying to reduce the number of falls among our patients. Unintentional falls are the leading cause of emergency department visits in the U.S. across every age group, according to the Centers for Disease Control. They happen due to a myriad of reasons. As we age, many people are less active. They also develop more health issues that require medication. Dizziness is a listed side effect of almost every medication. Eyesight begins to deteriorate with age and we require corrective lenses or contacts. All of these factors can result in decreased balance and a higher fall risk.

When balance deficits turn into falls, serious injuries occur. Often these falls result in fractures, concussions, or other orthopedic injuries that need hospital stays, surgery, anesthesia, home health or outpatient therapy. The important thing to note here is that poor balance makes the risk for falling far greater. A

person's balance can improve with skilled outpatient physical therapy (PT) and proper instruction. Although some effort is required for outpatient PT, it is far easier than going through the whole process and the limitations of a fall that results in serious

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injury. Balance training is something we are skilled at providing in the Brooks Rehabilitation Callahan outpatient clinic. If you recently had a fall or are concerned about falling, contact us, 904-879-1223, or your physician about setting up an evaluation. Let us help ensure you are living your best life possible.

The Brooks Rehabilitation Callahan Clinic is located at: 45390 Green Avenue, directly behind the Callahan McDonald's and they can be reached at 904-879-1223.

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Does anyone know the meaning of the word traitor? Do people understand the depth of punishment for being a traitor in America? There are several Democrats in Washington who appear to lack the ability to understand either of those two questions. These Democrats are feverishly attempting to block the "Safe Vote" bill from being passed. The "Safe Vote" is to guarantee that non-citizens in the United States cannot vote in our federal elections. In other words, these Democrats are pushing the agenda that anyone from anywhere should be able to affect who our President should be, along with our Congress and Senate members. Allowing that to happen is most definitely an act of treason.

So, was the Presidential debate a set-up? Elon Musk thinks so along with billionaire David Sacks. Musk said, "They're just talking puppets. It was a setup for a switch." Sacks stated, "Watching the CNN commentators put the knife in Biden's back is actually sickening. No loyalty, no remorse, it's just gross." My thoughts are, in a political debate there should be no loyalty no remorse to any one person. Ask the question and let the debater articulate their response, period. However, that's the liberal philosophy and hence why so many Americans were shocked at Biden's dismal performance.

Director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, Larry Sabato, stated on CNN Friday that the race between Biden and Trump is "no longer close" and dismissing the idea that Biden could

make up ground doing an interview with ABC (which did occur) or some rallies to tighten the gap. Sabato continued, "Just take the four (polls) last week, including CNN's poll, all of them were in agreement, which you rarely see even with well-conducted polls: Biden, who was really maybe even, maybe two points behind Trump, is now at least in unison in these polls, six points behind. That's million and millions of voters. And what's going to restore them? A good interview (which it wasn't), a good rally? Come on."

Biden blundered again in a 17-minute speech at a rally in a gymnasium in Wisconsin. He was telling the small crowd that he is still the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. Biden said, "There's been a lot of speculation: What's Joe going to do? Is he going to stay in the race? Is he going to drop out? Here's my answer: I'm running and going to win again. I will beat Donald Trump. I will beat him again in 2020." Biden went on to say, "Some folks don't seem to care who you voted for. Guess what? They are trying to push me out of the race. Let me say this as clearly as I can: I'm staying in the race."

I told you all to fasten your seatbelts because this was going to be one heck of a political ride! We still have four months to go and it's going to get cruel. We are going to see the truly dark side of the Democrat Party. Hold on!

As always...that's just my opinion!  
Trump 2024!

Visit us anytime at: [www.mywestsidejournal.com](http://www.mywestsidejournal.com)

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16, at the Pig BBQ restaurant in Callahan at 7 p.m. If you are interested in the history 1861-1865, please plan to attend.

If you or a loved one have been a victim of Domestic Violence, FREE Domestic Violence Support Group. For time, date and location, call: (904) 548-7312.

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# Following Jesus

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



So, what does it mean to follow Jesus Christ, to be his disciple? As disciples, we must respond in faith and obey God's call as one of his chosen vessels to spread the gospel's good news. It is a lifelong process of denying oneself while allowing Jesus Christ to come and live inside us. Our main goal as disciples is to spend as much time with Jesus Christ as possible. To learn as much as possible so that we can become more like him. We must walk the walk and talk the talk. He has equipped us with his word and training.

When Jesus called his first followers, they were fishermen in Galilee, tax collectors and doctors. He talked about seeking the kingdom of God, moving from where they were to someplace new. Jesus called people to follow him in the way of living. As a result of the earliest members of Jesus' movement, there was a drastic transformation in those early Christians. The book of Matthew gives excellent account. Matthew 4:18-21, "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the Son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them."

It's no different today than in Jesus' day. As people who follow Christ, we need to be taught the word of God as a body of believers. We come together and allow the pastor to teach us the word of God. The word instructs us how to live and conduct our lives like Jesus did. They have the same standards and values. The truth is, it comes with a significant cost to follow Jesus. Jesus began to preach and to say, repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Just as Peter and Andrew had to surrender, granted, they may not have fully understood the depth of who Jesus is, but they heard the call of repentance. They chose to obey and follow him, laying aside their nets and their careers. They decided to follow the path being led by Christ as they were called to surrender.

When we choose to follow Jesus, we two are coming into repentance, turning away from our old lifestyle of sin and accepting the new life of being led by Jesus Christ, to the path that he has ordered us to follow. The path to become disciples, the newness of salvation and the new mission walking with God. "The Lord said to his disciples, "If any man would come after me; he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For who who ever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever lose his life for me will find it. What good would it be for a man if he gained the whole world yet loses his soul what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:24-26

In order for us to bear fruit like Jesus, we must abide in him, remain dwell, and be fully devoted to his teaching. 1 Corinthians 11:1-2, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."

Paul was encouraging the Corinthian church to follow after him, just as he is following Christ. He's encouraging them to continue watching and praying and studying the Scriptures and growing in their relationship with God, not to earn salvation, but to live it out in a way that those who are watching us would be encouraged to follow Jesus Christ also.

I'll be the first to say, that following Jesus does not mean that you would never mess up.

# New Foundation House of Hope Presents Donation

New Foundation House of Hope, an outreach ministry, has been driven to support local youth missions and related outreach missionaries involving youth. The ministry was founded by local contractor Larry Hogan and his family. The ministry is supported by businesses that long to provide monetary funds to youth programs in churches that need assistance in building their programs.

Our community is filled with successful small business owners, like Hogan, that have been blessed in many ways. God has enabled them to come along side of these youth ministries to finically lift them up. We need to assist the ones who are willing to do the work God has called them to. This also helps to go after our youth, guiding them into the direction God planned for their life. Otherwise, we will continue to get the



Shown (l to r) are Tylor Hogan, Logan Gaskins, Larry and Sherry Hogan.

same results and deterioration of our youth, community, and country.

Logan Gaskins, youth leader at Gateway to Life Ministries in Hilliard, was presented a \$5,000 donation to help build and grow their youth ministry program. To find out more about New Foundation House of Hope, call Larry at 904-444-8287.

# CHURCH NEWS

Hilliard First Assembly of God, US Hwy 1, will have a Community Fish Fry, Friday, July 12, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the church. Fish dinners for \$5/dinner. Includes: Fish, Grits, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Bread and Tea. They just want to bless their community with an affordable night out.

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville, monthly Gospel Sing will be held Friday July 12, with our guest "Bro. Mike Upright" and our host The Gospel Sounds at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the sing.

But it does require us to lay down those things that possess us. Matthew 19:27-29, "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

Jesus is calling. Are you ready to follow? Are you prepared to commit? Have you made the decision to die to your old self and live a whole new life that lasts all eternity? He's the way, the truth, and the life.

Grace and Peace for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Join us for VBS at Live Oak Baptist Church**  
**July 21 - 25**  
**Thursday - Sunday**  
**5:15 - 8:30 p.m.**  
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**TOWN OF HILLIARD**  
**NOTICE OF ELECTION**  
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**3 COUNCIL SEATS**  
**CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES**

For potential candidates for the Hilliard Town Council: the positions of three Council seats are up for election. For the offices of the Town Council, the three qualified candidates that receive the highest number of votes shall be elected for four-year terms.

Qualifying for the Hilliard Town Council will begin on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at Noon and will end on Friday, August 9, 2024 at Noon. The deadline for candidates to submit all petitions for verification will be Thursday, August 1, 2024 at Noon.

Any person meeting the qualifications set forth in Section 8.01 of the Town Charter and Chapter 18, Elections, of the Town Code, desiring to qualify as a candidate may pay the qualifying fee and file their qualifying papers with the Town Clerk at the Hilliard Town Hall located at 15859 West County Road 108. The Hilliard Town Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Qualifying information including the Candidate Handbook is located on the Town's website [www.townofhilliard.com](http://www.townofhilliard.com) by clicking on Current Information. For qualifying assistance and/or to be emailed qualifying information including the Candidate Handbook, please contact Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office: (904) 845-3555 or [lpurvis@townofhilliard.com](mailto:lpurvis@townofhilliard.com).

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# Update on Woods Lane Rezoning

Marci McCosh

Last summer, Quantum Rail (WATCO) requested the rezoning of over 50 acres of Agricultural Land along Woods Lane to Heavy Industrial (Application 2023-004). Nassau County Commissioners heard concerns from local residents throughout the summer. At the August 14, 2023 meeting four Commissioners expressed opposition to the rezoning, until District 4's own Commissioner Allison McCullough unexpectedly reversed her prior opinion and motioned in favor of the Heavy Industrial designation. Commissioners Gray and Huppman then also changed course, resulting in a narrow 3:2 vote in favor. Commissioners Klynt Farmer and John Martin were in dissent.

In response, neighbors swiftly organized engaging legal counsel to file a Petition for Writ of Certiorari (Case # 2023-CA-000477), basically asserting that due process was not followed. Our grievances included the county's expansion of zoning changes beyond the scope of the application, dismissal of valid and legal resident concerns, and inadequate justification from Planning and Zoning. In fact, Planning and Zoning repeatedly stated that no one lived nearby, even while those very neighbors stood before them! To have the Commission argue that this area was suitable for residential living when they approved a 101-lot neighborhood in 2006, but is better suited for heavy industrial in 2023 right down the street is absurd - you cannot have it both ways! The rubber stamp must stop!

Neighbor's efforts resulted in a recent and unexplained denial of the motion on May 13, 2024. This prompted an immediate appeal to the State of Florida against Nassau County. And before you mistakenly think this does not impact you, please realize this current dispute underscores the broader concerns of multiple resident and community groups countywide when it comes to planning practices and their impact on safety and community growth. Already, this neighborhood has experienced four semi accidents, including one just last week, heightening concerns about safety even before heavy industry arrives. Just look at the news to see how industrial train traffic can devastate entire communities

like East Palestine, Ohio. The rubber stamp must stop!

During a recent Community Improvement Planning session, there was a proposal for a \$2 million county/DOT-funded road to reroute Woods Lane. This initiative aims to address concerns about mixing residential and heavy industrial traffic. While it's wonderful that the county recognizes the potential safety risks of residential traffic near a Heavy Industrial zone, I question the need for such an expensive solution, especially when a compromise on zoning was proposed by neighbors last year and remains viable. It's fair to ask whether the county would undertake similar expenditures for individual property owners seeking rezoning. I think we know the answer to that.

This example illustrates Nassau County's tendency to bend its own rules to accommodate growth, even when it is not smart growth. It's important to note that all of these actions are being taken for a buyer as of yet to be determined. How can such costly actions be justified without knowing the path forward? The rubber stamp must stop!

I'm reaching out today for two important reasons. First, our community's legal battle has incurred significant costs. Neighbors have launched a GoFundMe campaign, the Woods Lane Legal Defense Fund, to support our appeal efforts and show unity. Please consider contributing to our cause, big or small, as every donation makes a difference. You can donate at

[<https://gofund.me/4c6e7ad0>].

Secondly, I want to highlight a recent development: the Special Board of County Commissioners meeting on June 24, where the draft of the County Improvement Plan was presented. Residents of Nassau County have 30 days to voice their concerns by writing or calling Commissioners before the Plan is finalized and voted on at the September Commission meeting. You can view the meeting at: [www.nassauclerk.com/watch-meetings/](http://www.nassauclerk.com/watch-meetings/) (18:30 minute mark). I strongly urge you to watch the meeting to stay informed about this issue and others that will shape the future of Nassau County.

Here's to thoughtful growth.



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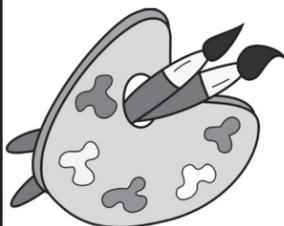
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# Kids' Art Classes

at the Callahan Train Depot

**SATURDAY, JULY 13**

- + Ages 5 - 8 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. • \$12
- + Ages 9 - 13 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. • \$12
- + Ages 14-18 • 1 - 3 p.m. • \$12



Hosted by the West Nassau Historical Society.

Some classes may be combined or canceled depending on attendance. Made possible in part by a grant from Arts and Culture Nassau.

Finished works of art will be displayed at the Ice Cream Social at the Depot on Friday, July 19.

Call 904-879-3406 or visit [www.wnhsfl.org](http://www.wnhsfl.org) to download an entry form!

## Welcome to Callahan...

Callahan has a new business name but not new storefront. Gunsmoke Firearms and More has joined

# GUNSMOKE FIREARMS & MORE

the Vapeology store. The Gunsmoke sign now is on the front of the store, however owner Mike Condurelis is happy to announce the addition of Gunsmoke Firearms and More to the business. "I've always been a gun enthusiast so we are going to try to offer a few selections for customers," said Condurelis. "We have been in this location as a vape store for eight years. We'll just see how this works out."

The store will stock a good selection

of rifles and pistols along with accessories such as cases, holsters, etc. They will also stock some ammo.

It's great to see another business that is locally owned and operated in Callahan.

The store is located in the Junior's Seafood strip mall. Their address is:



450061 State Road 200 #10, Callahan and the hours are: Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. See their ad on page 3.

"I pride myself on building relationships with my customers and try to provide the best customer service I can," continued Condurelis.



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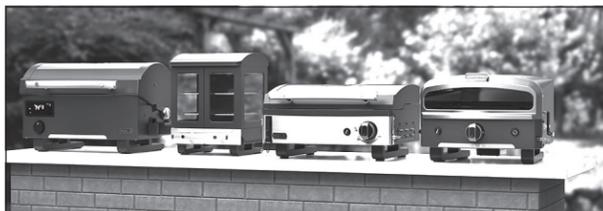


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## Summer Fun at the Hilliard Library

Monday, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office had an amazing time at the Hilliard Library for the Touch-a-Truck Summer Reading Program! The kids learned so much about child safety from our incredible partners: Nassau County Fire Rescue, Nassau County Forestry, and Wolfson's Children's Hospital Center for Child Health.

The children got to meet members of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Ag-marine, motor, Bloodhound, Communications, and Public Affairs units. A huge thank you to everyone who made this event possible and to all the families who joined us. Together, we're fostering a lifelong love of reading

and learning in Nassau County. We will have another visit at the Yulee Library on Thursday, July 18. Contact Michelle Forde at mforde@nassaucountyfl.com for more Summer Reading Fun at the local libraries!



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# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Mr. and Mrs. Pinky Voll Celebrate 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Pinky and Joy Voll, of Callahan, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary July 3. They were married July 3, 1958 in Miami Springs, Florida, at their pastor's home. Mr. Pinky recalled riding his bicycle by Joy's house when they were younger, and she didn't give him the time of day! Joy recalled she just wasn't interested in boys at that time. Pinky later joined the US Navy and she quickly decided he was the one! Pinky served in the Navy for 14 years; and later

worked with Delta Airlines, where he retired after 25 years of dedicated service. Joy worked for the telephone company and planned to retire from there. However, once they began having children, she was a homemaker, wife and mama!

"The Lord makes the difference in marriage and life," they both added. They are faithful members of Callahan First Baptist Church and love their church and church family. They celebrated their special milestone with a special dinner together.

They have four children and 22 grandchildren and great-grandchildren combined!



## Mr. and Mrs. Burns to Celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ellis and Marianne Burns, of Callahan, will celebrate their 20th anniversary July 17. They were married July 17, 2004, in Waycross, Georgia.

To celebrate their special milestone, they recently took a family vacation to Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. They have two children Hunter and Laurianne Burns.

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## YARD SALES

**MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE**, Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., 34374 Old Baldwin Road, Callahan. Kids toys, men, women & children's clothes, household items & more! Too much to list!

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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.*

**Sunday, June 30**

Elizabeth Michelle McDaniel, 45, Callahan: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; False Name while Detained; Possession of Methamphetamine

**Monday, July 1**

John Austin McCullough, 25, Hilliard: Failure to Appear Felony

**Wednesday, July 3**

Jessie Taylor Lee, 54, Callahan: Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams; Possession of Methamphetamine

**Thursday, July 4**

David Earl Edwards, Jr., 35, Hilliard: Trespass on Real Property

**Friday, July 5**

George Robert Selander, 63, Hilliard: Battery on a Person older than 65 years of age

## Dayspring Village Presents Award

Dayspring Village celebrated Founder's Day July 1, 2024. Dr Charles E. Cooper and his ministry team arranged a low country boil as part of the celebration with remarks from Administrator Douglas Adkins and Dr Cooper. "This year we have chosen Carissa Murphy as the 2024 recipient of the E. Max Adkins Founder's Day Award to recognize her dedication and her compassion for others. Carissa has been employed by Dayspring Village since March 2021. She has risen through the ranks to become a Resident Care Coordinator, has fought through the pandemic and COVID19 crisis and brings love and compassion to others each day she comes to work," said Adkins.

Dayspring Village was founded by E. Max Adkins and Joan D. Adkins in January 1987 and has served over 4000 adults with serious mental illness over the last 37 years. The facility remains focused on providing residential care for low-income adults who struggle with schizophrenia and schizoaffective



disorders. On average, the life expectancy of an adult with schizophrenia ranges from 58 - 64 years of age in the United States. The onset of symptoms typically is 17-19 for the men and 19-22 for the women. There is a 40% increase likelihood of forming schizophrenia with the marijuana now being sold in the United States and a 500% increased risk if the person has a close relative who struggles with the disease.

To learn more about Dayspring Village, visit: [www.dayspringvillage.org](http://www.dayspringvillage.org) or call Douglas Adkins at 904-583-0134 or email: [doug@dayspringvillage.org](mailto:doug@dayspringvillage.org).

## Westside Senior Life Center Afternoon Activities for July

Join us for our afternoon activity program at Nassau County Council on Aging's Westside Senior Life Center, 37002 Ingham Rd., Hilliard. All programs are free of charge. Questions? Contact Missy Snead, Activities Coordinator, 904-675-9833 or [msnead@nassaucountycoa.org](mailto:msnead@nassaucountycoa.org).

- Monday, July 15 • 2-4 p.m. - Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc.
- Tuesday, July 16 • 1-3 p.m. - Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"
- Wednesday, July 17 • 2-3 p.m. - YouTube Tai Chi
- Thursday, July 18 • 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Line Dancing with Tanya
- Friday, July 19 • 2-3:30 p.m. - Movie & Popcorn - "Baby's Day Out"
- Monday, July 22 • 2-4 p.m. - Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc.
- Tuesday, July 23 • 1-3 p.m. - Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"
- Wednesday, July 24 • 2-3 p.m. - YouTube Crafts
- Thursday, July 25 • 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Line Dancing with Tanya
- Friday, July 26 • 2-3 p.m. - Q&A with the VFW
- Monday, July 29 • 2-4 p.m. - Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc.
- Tuesday, July 30 • 1-3 p.m. - Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers"
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**ANTHONY EDWIN BAISDEN**



Anthony Edwin Baisden, more recently known as Toni Lynne Baisden, 29, of Hilliard, passed away June 24, 2024. Toni Lynne was born March 1, 1995, to Patricia Ann Baisden and Randy Noah Johns. After Toni graduated from Hilliard Middle-Senior High School in 2014, she studied Business Management at Valencia College in Orlando. Toni had the most vibrant personality and the biggest heart. She could make anybody laugh and spent most of her time doing so. She loved deeply and fiercely and would stop at nothing to help those who needed it. Her memory will live on forever in those whose lives she touched.

Toni joins in heaven, her mother Patricia Ann Baisden; brother James Aaron Baisden; grandmother Barbara Hendrix; and grandfather Edwin Baisden.

She leaves behind her father Randy Noah Johns; sisters Crystal Nell and Brenda Kay Baisden; nephews Ethan Marquard Hamilton and Christopher Aaron Jones; niece Haylee Janeice King; and numerous extended family members, adopted family and friends.

The funeral service was held Friday, July 5 at Shepard Roberson Funeral Home-Callahan Chapel.

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

**CARL FRED BALLANCE**



Carl Fred Ballance, 70, passed away March 15, 2024, in Jacksonville, following a lengthy illness. He was born February 3, 1954 in Jesup, Georgia to the late Fred and Juanita Ballance. Carl Fred was known for his position in the hospitality industry for many years, where everyone that came in contact with him was very much catered to. Carl Fred spent many

# OBITUARIES

years as the dorm manager at South Georgia College in Douglas, Georgia, residing over Floyd Hall where he enrolled and took many classes. He could most times, be found on the basketball court until later in life when he was injured in an auto accident that prevented a lot of his independence. He then became concierge at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Hinesville, Georgia where he enjoyed his position at the front desk and breakfast cook.

Carl Fred retired and moved to Hilliard, where most of his family resides. In true Carl fashion, he met new friends, new family, and would always open his home and freezer to anyone in need. Carl Fred also tried his hand in couponing and was very proud of his daily and or weekly hauls. Most people would say that he was known for his kindness and the ability to tell it like it was, whether you liked it or not!

Carl Fred is survived by his six siblings: Marie (Dale) Cray, Diane Smith, Shelia Bessent, Maryann Lindsay, Janice Cory and John (Cathy) Ballance.

**FRANCIS EUGENE CHESSE**

Francis Eugene "Grant" Chesser, 90, of Folkston, Georgia, passed away Sunday, July 7, 2024. He was born March 2, 1934 in Folkston, to the late Robert Allen "Ridley" Chesser and Cornelia Justice Chesser. In addition to his parents; he is preceded in death by his wife Barbara Ann Cowart Chesser; sons Steve Chesser, Ronnie Chesser, Neil Chesser and Danny Chesser; and siblings Robert Allen Chesser, Jr., Harold Chesser, Linda Mae Burnsed, Freddie Jackson "Jack" Chesser, Louise Crews and Minnie Lee Morgan.

He is survived by his daughters Margaret

(Frank) Varnes and Peggy Gayb; siblings James Chesser and Maggie Patterson; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 6 - 8 p.m. Thursday, July 11 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

**MARGARET "JEWEL" CUSHMAN**



Margaret Jewel Cushman, 74, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, July 2, 2024. She was born September 16, 1949 to the late Rudolph Britt and Margaret Maples Britt in Lumberton, North Carolina.

Jewel and the love of her life, Elvin, exchanged vows November 19, 1966, and were happily married for 57 beautiful years. She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, where she devotedly served as a Sunday school and Vacation Bible school teacher. She was also very dedicated and involved in various church activities. Jewel had a passion for sharing and teaching others about the word of God. She spent many years as a teacher's aide, assisting the students at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School. Jewel was one of a kind with a warm and loving spirit. She was adored by all who knew her and will be missed immensely. Jewel is preceded in death by her parents; son David Cushman; brothers Danny Britt, Wayne Britt and William Britt; granddaughter Destiny; nephew Tommy Sada; and in-laws WT and Thelma Cushman.

Jewel leaves behind her loving husband, Elvin Cushman; children Dwight Cushman,

Darryl Cushman, Melissa (Mike) Holland and Nicole Cushman; sister Carol (Robert) Sada; grandchildren Adam, Tiffany, Silas, Bryce, Tyler, Alyse, Dustin, Tabbatha, Erica, Colton and Gabriel; and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Jewel's life was held Wednesday, July 10 at the First Baptist Church of Gray Gables with Pastor Cody Page officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends July 9 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

**LUCILLE BEATRICE JOHNS**



Lucille Beatrice Johns, 76, of Hoboken, Georgia, passed away peacefully June 22, 2024 at Community Hospice Center for Caring at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside. She was born July 30, 1947, to the late Edward Bercaw and Wanda Musgrove Bercaw in Folkston.

Lucille had several hobbies which included shooting guns, drawing and making beautiful artwork. She also volunteered her time keeping the local cemeteries clean and well maintained. It was something she enjoyed thoroughly and saw it as an honor to serve those in her community whom had passed. Lucille met many intriguing people during her time as an employee at the Ritz Carlton. She was very active, highly motivated and believed in working hard. Lucille is preceded in death by her parents; husband Harry Johns; brothers Randy Bercaw and Charles Bercaw; and sister Faye Odding.

Lucille leaves behind her brother Larry (Fran) Bercaw; sisters Sharon (Larry) Lloyd, Cathy Griffin and Sandy King; uncle Freeman Musgrove; and aunt Ann Grooms.

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We love you always and forever,  
Daddy and Momma

We miss you so much, Dalton. It feels like I haven't seen you in a thousand years.

I love you so much! ♡  
Always and forever,  
Heather, JJ and Dayton

# OBITUARIES

## LUCY EDWARDS TERRELL



Lucy Edwards Terrell, 72, of Callahan, passed away peacefully Monday, July 1, 2024 at home. Lucy was a homemaker. She spent her days making sure everything at home was taken care of. She was a former Nassau County 4-H leader, serving as the leader of Callahan Country Kids. She was a former board member and volunteer of the Northeast Florida Fair Association; board member and officer of the Jones Cemetery Association; and former Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District board member.

She is predeceased by her husband James L. Terrell, Jr.; her parents Haskell and Cecile Edwards; and an uncle William Earnhart.

She leaves behind her daughter Shelly Terrell; son James L. (Jodi) Terrell, III; grandchildren Bellamy and Brenham Terrell; brother Tom Edwards; aunt Ethlynn Earnhart; nephew and nieces Matt Edwards, Mandy (Chris) White and Kiley Middleton.

The family received friends Sunday, July 7 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home - Callahan Chapel. The funeral service was held Monday, July 8 at Callahan Methodist Church. Burial followed at Jones Cemetery. Pallbearers were Matt Edwards, Chris White, Michael Wingate, Clark Higginbotham, Don Hyatt, John Wilkinson, Bruce Musgrove and Robbie Williams. Honorary pallbearers will be Terry Wingate, Elliott Kennedy, Joshua Rivers, Don Tanner and Niel Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Nassau County 4-H Association, 543350 US 1, Callahan, FL 32011.

Condolences may be expressed at:

www.srfhcallahan.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home-Callahan Chapel, 617365 Brandies Avenue, Callahan, 904-879-2336.

## BARBARA J. TIMMONS



Barbara J. Timmons, 48, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord June 29, 2024. She was born August 4, 1975, in Jacksonville, to Larry M. Timmons and Roberta T. Willard. Barbara was employed with Tropar Manufacturing Jacksonville, in the customer service department. In her spare time, Barbara loved to crochet and would create many different treasures. Her favorite thing to make was small hats for newborn babies to help keep their heads warm. Barbara crocheted the hats with love and generously donated them to hospitals. She treasured her family and adored spending time with them. Barbara was certainly very loved and will be greatly missed. She is preceded in death by her father; and stepfather Charles D. Willard.

Barbara is survived by her loving mother, Roberta T. Willard; sister Mary M. (Neal) Timmons; aunt Barbara B. Hughes; fiancé Joe Bays; nephew Hunter Thurman; nieces Graci Belcher and Lilli Thurman; and many cousins.

A celebration of Barbara's life was held Tuesday, July 9 at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Ken Barney officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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

# Gray Announces Candidacy for County Commissioner Re-election

Jeff Gray has been married to Diana for 31 years and is blessed with two adult children and a new grandchild. He is a Christian by faith, and is a member of The Bridge Family Worship Center Church in Yulee. Jeff spent many years volunteering with Yulee Little League as coach



and umpire at Yulee Sports Complex. Jeff loves building community, by volunteering whenever he can with the Council on Aging, Community Stewards of Yulee, Barnabas, Gracie's Kitchen, Spring Hill Baptist Church, Callahan First Baptist and The Journey Church's food distributions.

Jeff believes Nassau County is truly a blessed county in which to live, work and play, that we all love to call our home. Jeff is proud of our "Enhanced Quality-of-Life" and "Quality-of-Place" through fiscal stewardship and leadership. It's exciting to implement the voter referendum approved CLAM Conservation Program, and invest back into our communities with the progress of new recreational parks and green open space facilities (Nassau Crossing, Blackrock Cove and Westside Regional Park) for our resident citizens and families to enjoy.

As Commissioner, Jeff is extremely proud of the many successes accomplished and promises to keep lowering taxes for the citizens of Nassau County. When Jeff took office in 2020 our County Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate had been raised 10 consecutive years in a row and was 6.8376. Jeff provided a reduced County tax millage rate for three (3) consecutive years in a row (2021, 2022, 2023) to 6.3356 and is working now to reduce taxes again for the fourth consecutive year for 2024 while still improving the community with public safety funding (Sheriff's Office and Fire-

Rescue) for the safety and health of our resident citizens!

Jeff's leadership in the professional community has created a business-friendly economic ecosystem for Nassau County where business and industry can make investments in infrastructure projects that benefit all citizens. Jeff believes that in order to meet the challenges of 2024 and beyond, we must work together toward a future that benefits the entire county. The creation of good, local, well-paying jobs is essential to Nassau County, the State of Florida, and our Country.

Jeff's professional business experience included 34 years of service at one of the largest global manufacturing corporations in the world, vehicle manufacturer Mack Trucks Inc., which manufactures and sells transport solutions to 62 countries around the world. Jeff previously served on the Code Enforcement Board as well as the Planning and Economic Opportunity Board for the citizens of Nassau County. Jeff currently serves as a member of the Nassau County Republican GOP Executive Committee.

Jeff's leadership, successful business and civic service experience, along with his promises kept of reducing taxes for Nassau County taxpayers, and eye towards economic development, make him exceptionally qualified to serve again as your Nassau County District # 3 County Commissioner.

We in Nassau County, will have more successes for our taxpayers as a result of your continued support. Thank you in advance for your trust and continued confidence in me. For more information visit: [www.VoteJeffGray.com](http://www.VoteJeffGray.com); email [VoteJeffGray@gmail.com](mailto:VoteJeffGray@gmail.com) or call 904-302-0137.



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## Life Care Center of Hilliard Receives Donation



Life Care Center of Hilliard staff and residents would like to thank First Missionary Baptist Church, Union St. James Association, Women's Department of Kings Ferry for their kind donation to support our Activities Program! We are so thankful to have so many community partners to join with us to provide monetary gifts for the enjoyment of our many residents.

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- Master in Business Administration (MBA)  
University of North Florida
- Certified Elections Registration Administrator  
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#### Professional:

- Worked 12 years as a Private Sector Information Technology Consultant
- Served 10 years Nassau County School Board
- Served 8 years Florida House of Representatives
- Current Supervisor of Elections 2021 to Present

#### Personal:

- Married to Doug Adkins – 27 years
- Member Blackrock Baptist Church
- Two Children – Emily (1999-2022) and Douglas (22)
- 5th Generation North Floridian
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