

“LITTLE BY LITTLE I WILL DRIVE THEM OUT BEFORE YOU, UNTIL YOU HAVE INCREASED ENOUGH TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND.” - EXODUS 23:30

Hilliard Considers Possible Water Increase



Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final meeting in July. The first action at the meeting was the recognition of the Hilliard Parks & Recreation Spring Soccer Program Champions from their age division. Some players, that were available to attend, were present to receive their certificates. “Thank you to the players and parents for a great season! We appreciate your participation,” said Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg.

The first order of business was two Public Hearings on Ordinances. The first, Ordinance 2024-04, which concerns Amending Chapter 42, Streets, Sidewalks and other Public Places; Amending Section 42-2 Tree Cutting Deposit amount and adding Drainage Systems; Amending Section 42-3 Good Cause; adding regulations regarding Tree Harvesting and Cutting on private property. The council approved Ordinance 2024-04 on Second and Final Reading.

The second, Ordinance 2024-06, concerned Annexing into the corporate limits, three parcels of real property, Lofty Investment Holdings, Hilliard First Assembly of God, and Richard and Cecelia Walker, containing approximately 37.35 acres; finding said annexation to be consistent with the Town of Hilliard’s Comprehensive

Plan; and Ordinance Amending Section 2.03 of the Charter to include said land. The council approved the Ordinance on First Reading.

The next agenda item was for the council to consider Ordinance 2024-05, which concerned regulating the Water and Sewer Usage Rates in accordance with the Town Charter Section 4-11

(5) action requiring and Ordinance; and further stated in Chapter 58 Utilities of the Town Code on first reading. Town Clerk Lisa Purvis advised the council that this rate increase is necessary to ensure the town has adequate funds to pay for the annual debt service and annual operating and maintenance costs for the water and wastewater treatment plants. “The increase would be 2.14 %, which is about \$1 more per customer on their monthly bill,” said Purvis. “If approved the increase would not appear until the October 2024 billing cycle.”

The council approved the ordinance on first reading.

The following item concerned the council approval of the Whisper Ridge Subdivision Bond Reduction of 75% to \$41,294.26, based on the completion of the warranty period. With an agreement the curbs within the subdivision will be repaired at the construction closeout.

The next agenda item was the approval of a Septic Tank exception for property owner Bobby Franklin. “This property well exceeds the distance from any of the town’s septic lines,” said Joel Hall, Public Works Director.

In the following three agenda items, the council approved the quarterly reports from: the Land Use Administrator; the Building Official; and the Code Enforcement Officer.

The next agenda item concerned the See ‘Hilliard Considers’ on page 2

NCSO Teen Citizens Academy a Success!



Sheriff Bill Leeper has an unwavering commitment to spreading awareness about the dangers of fentanyl use. The Nassau County Sheriff’s Office hosted an amazing 3-day summer academy for teens aged 13-18 last week, giving them an immersive experience into the field of law enforcement. The academy featured a detailed scenario of a fentanyl overdose case, covering every step from the initial 9-1-1 call to the crime scene investigation, criminal investigation process, courthouse visit, suspect apprehension, and booking process.

Highlights of the academy: Teens participated in a simulated fentanyl overdose case, learning firsthand how officers handle such critical incidents.

Educational Sessions: Our detectives provided essential facts about fentanyl, highlighting the dangers and risks associated with this deadly drug.

Hands-On Experience: Students

donned hazmat suits to collect evidence, emphasizing the real-life risks faced by law enforcement officers.

Unit Tours: Cadets visited various units, including Motors, Ag-Marine, K-9, and Corrections with a comprehensive jail tour.

Court Visit: A special visit to the Nassau County Courthouse where the Honorable Judge Bass explained the arrest warrant process and the role of the court system.

NCSO Special Operations Unit, including School Resource Officers and their Sergeant, along with our Explorer Unit, played a crucial role in making this event a success. The Explorer Unit also introduced the teens to the Explorer program, showcasing the benefits of exploring a career in law enforcement.

Special thanks to: Florida State College at Jacksonville Nassau Campus for providing facilities; The See ‘NCSO Teen Citizens’ on page 2



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Hilliard Considers

approval of Capital Expenditures for emergency repairs to standby generators for the Water and Wastewater Systems totaling \$34,629.96.

The next two agenda items concerned fully funded projects at the Hilliard Airpark. The first, a payable to AECOM for \$22,288.20 for project Hangar Building. The second, the approval of a payable to AECOM for \$6,260.50 for project Runway Protection Zone Clearing at the Airpark.

The following two agenda items were payable to Mittaurer & Associates for engineering services for two projects.

Continued from page 1

The first, payable for \$2,760 for project Oxford Street Force Main Rerouting. The second, payable for \$9,120 for project WWTP Permit Renewal.

The next agenda item was the approval for payment to T.B. Landmark Construction, Inc. for project: Oxford Street Force Main Rerouting in the amount of \$189,762.50.

The final agenda item was the council approval to name Cory Hobbs as Interim Public Works Director until a new director is hired.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, August 1 at 7 p.m.

NCSO Teen Citizens

Honorable Judge Bass for addressing and counseling the teens and explaining court processes; Oxley-Heard Funeral Home for their role in the scenario and explaining the processes of an overdose victim and the care they provide families affected; Food Sponsors: McDonald's in Callahan for breakfast, PrimeSouth Bank of Fernandina Beach, and two anonymous donors for pizza and pub subs.

Without the support of our community, we wouldn't be able to host such impactful events. We hope the camp's message is clear: in Nassau County, the Sheriff's Office will work

Continued from page 1

tirelessly with the Nassau County School District and community to spread awareness about the dangers of fentanyl. Together, we can make a difference!

For more information on how you can help our cause, please call Nicole Maddox at 904-548-4020; or email: ni1468@nassauso.com.

To find out more information on how you can get your teen involved in the Teen Citizens Academy for Summer 2025 or the Explorer Unit, please visit: www.nassauso.com and click the Programs tab.

In the Kitchen... **Seasoned Steamed Shrimp**

½ cup water	2 tablespoons seafood seasoning (such as Old Bay)
½ cup white vinegar	1 lb. fresh large shrimp, deveined with shells on

Bring water, vinegar, and seafood seasoning to a boil in a saucepan over high heat. Add shrimp and stir. Reduce heat to medium, cover, and steam, stirring once or twice, until bright orange in color, 3 to 5 minutes. Drain.

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NEW SCAM ALERT

The Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's office has received several reports of our citizens being targeted recently by SCAM CALLS. The callers claim to be with our office, and demand money to avoid the arrest of you or someone close to you. They are convincing and aggressive. There have been reports that they have even spoofed our phone number so that it looks as if they are calling from our office.

Our office will NEVER call you to demand money to avoid arrest. If you receive one of these calls, please hang up. If you would like to verify and confirm, call a known number for the Clerk's office, such as 904-548-4600. If you've fallen victim to these SCAMS, please call the Nassau County Sheriff's Office to report it. Please spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors so that no one else will be scammed by these thieves.

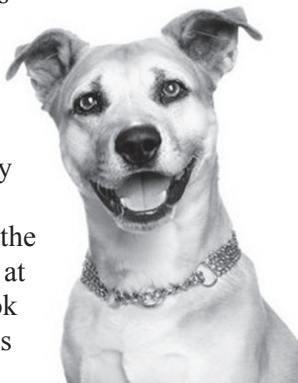
Nassau 4-H to Offer: The Dog Program

Nassau County 4-H and the Nassau Animal Services programs have joined together to offer The Dog Program to students 15-18 years of age, as one of the requirements. Other requirements include: must be a 4-H member; Have reliable transportation; and Interest form returned by Wednesday, August 7.

If you are interested in learning how to train a dog; Enjoy helping dogs find loving homes; Then, the dog program may be just right for you!

In the program you will attend engaging animal wellness classes; learn about the adoption process and proper care for animals; and train rescue dogs alongside professional trainers and volunteers. Students will complete a project book to showcase your learning and earn Community Service Hours and compete in the thrilling Adoption Day competition! Apply by scanning the QR code.

For more information about joining 4-H or attending the program, contact Spencer Hewitt, 4-H Extension Agent at 904-530-6353 or email: Spencer.hewitt@ufl.edu. We look forward to seeing lots of students participating in this informational and fun program!



Back to School Bash!

Hilliard First Assembly of God, 550920 US Highway 1, will have a BACK TO SCHOOL BASH this Saturday, July 27 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. FREE School Supplies, Clothes, Snow Cones & Car Wash!

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

As I write this early on Monday morning, all I can say is wow, to the past eight days! The American saga is getting thicker by the day. We have gone from an assassination attempt on President Trump, the naming of J.D. Vance as Trump's Vice President choice (excellent choice), to an awesome Republican Convention, and now crooked Joe dropping out of the Presidential race. You couldn't make this stuff up even if you tried.

The Democratic Party is experiencing internal turmoil to the degree never seen before. For the past four years they have covered Biden's ineptness and then boom, the debate shattered their cover-up for all the nay sayers. Biden's condition has been evident to anyone paying attention. It really shocks me that so many were clueless or just couldn't accept the truth. Accepting the truth is a very difficult process for the liberal left. They are famous for turning their heads and not reasoning evidence placed before them. However, this time it has blown up in their faces and there was no way to lie themselves out of it.

I have no idea on the outcome of who will be the chosen one to head the Democrat ticket for the Presidential race. But I can assure you it's going to be messy within the Democrat party. With Joe anointing the cackling VP Harris and the Democrat elites pushing for an open convention, all hades is going to breakout. If the Dems push the first female of color to the side, there is going to be a large block of voters that will refuse to vote for the new nominee's bid, just out of protest.

If they do so choose Kamala, her poll rankings are already in the toilet, therefore they have another completely different block of voters that will not support her election bid. What a mess they have created. They have a little more

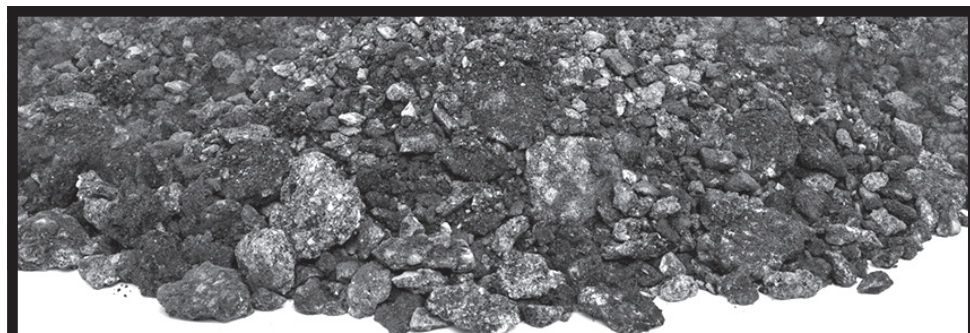
than 90 days to choose their new leader of their party, choose a person as their Vice President, put together their war chest and meet Donald J. Trump on November 5th at the polls. A hefty task no organization wants to endure. With that being said, there is one more question to be analyzed and answered. If Biden is not well enough to run for re-election, why is he able to remain the President until January 2025?

I think Newt Gingrich summed up the Democrat Party quiet well prior to the events of last week. He stated, "It's Barack Obama who corrupts the Justice Department. It is Hillary Clinton who routinely breaks the law and gets away with it. And now, we have Joe Biden who's learned. He's learned from Obama that doesn't matter what you do. If you're a liberal democrat you will not be prosecuted. He learned from Hillary that a person in high public office can get millions and millions of dollars. And they learned from watching Donald Trump, a true outsider willing to take on the entire system, could destroy their entire machine.

So, what you are seeing across the country is a desperate last-ditch effort by a corrupt machine to destroy their most dangerous opponent in a way which not only breaks the Constitution, destroys the rule of law and establishes a moment of bitterness, which I think will last for a generation or more. I think this is going to be a horrendous period and we just need to understand. The people who want to control America and dictate to the rest of us will break any law, lie about any topic, manipulate the system any way they can, and that includes a lot of the elite news media.

Like I've been saying, hang on...it's going to be an interesting ride.

As always...that's just my opinion!
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The Minor Prophets

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



With this month's article, we bring our overview of the Old Testament to a close. Before, we overview the last 12 books of the Old Testament, a little review is in order. The book of Genesis told the story of the beginning of creation and the formation of the Hebrew nation. Exodus through Deuteronomy give the story of the redemption of the nation from Egypt and the people of Isarel are about to enter the promised land. The rest of the Historical books (Joshua-Esther) show how God gave Israel the land, Israel lost the land, and how God was faithful to his promise to restore the people back to the land. The wisdom books showed us how-to live-in light of God's kingly rule. The major prophets called the people to obedience to covenant unfaithfulness.

Our last group of writings are called the Minor Prophets. In the Hebrew Bible, these 12 books were referred to as the book of the 12. Paul House is very insightful in demonstrating how these 12 books have a discernable structure. The Minor Prophets are arranged under three themes. Books one through six revolved around the sin that got Israel exiled; books 7-9 contain the punishment for sin; and books 10-12 contain God's gracious restoration from the sin of the people.

Books 1-6: Hosea-Micah contain the sins that got Israel exiled.

1. Book #1: Hosea: The major theme of the message of Hosea centers on spiritual adultery. The book of Hosea divides nicely into two major sections. Hosea's marriage is the focus of chapters 1-3 and Hosea's message is the content of chapters 4-14.

2. Book #2: Joel: The major theme of Joel is the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord will be the time of reckoning for Israel's sin and the wickedness of the nations. The day of the Lord is seen in the immediate sense (chapter 1) and the ultimate sense in chapters (2-3).

3. Book #3: Amos: Amos deals with the specific injustices that Israel was guilty of and divides into two sections. The first section is judgment (1-9:10). This section consists of 8 prophecies (1-2), 3 sermons (3-6), and 5 visions of coming destruction (7-9:10). Amos concludes with 5 promises of a future hope (9:11-15).

4. Book #4: Obadiah: Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament and addresses Edom's hatred for Israel and God's promised restoration of Israel.

5. Book #5: Jonah: Jonah speaks of Isarel's hatred for Assyria. Israel was supposed to be a light to the nations, but the people had turned from God. This reality is pictured in a forceful way through the prophet Jonah. Jonah is a picture

of the people as he is disobedient (1), distressed (2), discovered (3), displeased (4) with God's compassion of Israel's enemy Babylon.

6. Book #6: Micah: Micah gives us a much-needed conclusion to the books regarding the sins of Israel. Micah summarizes the punishment for sin (1-3), the promise regarding our sin (4-5), and then the pardon of sin (6-7).

Books 7-9: Nahum-Zephaniah deal with the Kingship of God over all nations and the punishment for sin.

1. Book #7: Nahum speaks of God's punishment of Assyria for their sin. Assyria's judgment is decreed (1), described (2), and deserved (3).

2. Book #8: Habakkuk speaks of God's punishment of Israel and Babylon for sin. Habakkuk is a book of struggling to reconcile the prophet's understanding of what God is doing (1-2) and who God is (3).

3. Book #9: Zephaniah speaks of God's punishment for the sins of the nations. Chapters (1-3:8) deal with judgment in the day of the Lord and the salvation that comes in the day of the Lord (3:9-20).

Books 10-12: The last 3 books in the book of the 12 speak of the restoration of Israel after the exile of the hope of the world.

1. Book 10: Haggai speaks of the restoration of the temple after the Babylonian captivity was completed. Haggai's short book calls the people to build (1), behold their God (2:1-9), to behave accordingly (2:10-19), and to believe the promises of God (2:20-23).

2. Book 11: Zechariah speaks of the restoration of Jerusalem and the nations. Zechariah's vision contains pictures (1-6:15), problems (7-8), concludes with predictions concerning the coming of Jesus as a rejected Savior in (9-11) and conclude with Jesus' return as a reigning King (12-14)

3. Book 12: Malachi prophecies the restoration of the people of God through the coming of Christ the king. The message of Malachi is presented in a forceful way as we see the care of God (1:1-5), the complaints of God against his people (1:6-3:15), and the promised coming of God in Jesus (3:16-4:6).

The overall message of the book of the 12 reminds me of the old hymn, His mercy is More. Our sins they are many, but His mercy is more. The last prophecy of the Old Testament is promise concerning the coming of the Messiah. After Malachi concludes his work, God goes silent for 400 years. We see a people who have been restored to the land of promise, but they are still awaiting the arrival of the Messiah. When we read the Old Testament as Christian Scripture, we see the great need for the arrival of Jesus in every book and in every story.

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We Are Under Attack, Like Never Before!

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

The question continues to come up, as we try and maintain some form of normalcy in our lives. Likely I would not have even thought of this, if it were not time for me to prepare for our summer trip. I contacted my "manufacturer's" dealership to inquire when I might bring my vehicle in for service. I was immediately asked to leave my number and they would get back to me, as they were experiencing computer problems.

Later, that day, the service manager called and arranged a date/time for us. Reaffirming the problem, we accepted and complied with his courtesy. As we awaited time to pass, we kept up with the news of the day and found that a 'ransomware' issue was holding up over 15,000 automotive dealerships, plus others, from doing business. Later that week, I was contacted by the manager to confirm my appointment saying "we cannot stop doing business just because some 'thief' wants to hold us hostage." We met with the service department, and moved on with our lives. But the circumstances were met with a waiting room, full of folks, which could not get business done due to this invasion of our lifestyles and practices. Our due diligence, and long-standing as customers, took care of our immediate needs. But what about next time?

Recently, we received a call from someone that wanted to represent themselves as our "primary health care" provider. The person attempted to tell my wife that her Medicare Card was no longer valid, and tried to 'transfer her' to Medicare to correct the concern. Alarms went off immediately, as we went through this "Fire-Drill" over a year ago. As a result of that situation, we had to contact Medicare, report the fraud and get both of our "Medicare" cards/numbers cancelled and re-issued. Another call, sometime later, was the same and we immediately contacted our provider to verify the fraud. Again, NO, it was not our provider that initiated the call. It was a complete ruse!

While this communication was a "blue-print" of the previous issues for us, recognizing the same methods and refusing to respond to the wishes, we avoided another fiasco into our privacy and security. Medical providers will not do this, and they will confirm that they would never initiate

such a call.

So, we return to the original question. "Are you more secure now?" The answer is no! None of this occurred (to us) before January, 2021. We need to recognize that we are no longer secure, and people are out to do all of us harm. So far as the "CDK" software, which is impacting our automotive industries and others, it is apparent that this is just the tip of the iceberg and now speculation is that it will not be fixed any time soon. It might take weeks, if not months, to correct for the unfortunate businesses that have contracted for these services. Further reports are indicating that the origin of this action is in Eastern Europe. But, so far as the alleged call from our health care provider, since our doctors' offices are all in South Georgia, the strong middle-east accent was a dead giveaway for those fraudulent calls.

Our advice is to get caller ID, if you do not already have it. But since the attempted Medicare Fraud used the office name and numbers as being our doctors, be especially wary of any request that asks for your current information/numbers and/or plans. DO NOT COMPLY with such calls/inquiries, if you have not initiated the inquiry. Immediately hang up! Especially if caller says they are going to transfer you to Medicare. You'll never know who is receiving it and MEDICARE will never be involved in such a call. If you don't recognize the name or caller, do not answer. Let it go to Voice Mail. If it is important, they will leave a message. If it is garbage, they won't.

In conclusion, if you are among the many who have opted out of having a "Home Phone" and are relying on your Cell Phone for all communications, just remember that a Cell Phone is a radio device that sends signals through the air. Those signals are susceptible to being intercepted and are NOT subject to the same privacy laws that "Land Lines" (Home Phones) are. Even recently, a cyber guru recommends returning to a hard-wired Land Line. Why? Because wireless security measures are being hacked and jammed, rendering them useless. Stay vigilant and stay safe. It might take a little extra time, but your privacy and security are far more important than letting your guard down, just because it might be the polite thing to do.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shearer Celebrate 70th Anniversary



Frank and Betty Shearer, of Callahan, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary July 24. They were married July 24, 1954 in St. Louis, Missouri. They met in church and pretty much fell in love. They had to get Betty's parents approval to get married, as she was 16. Frank served in the US Air Force for 23 years; and also served in the US Army Infantry for one year.

Once out of the service, Frank was called to the ministry and pastored many churches. The two traveled throughout Asia, Greece and Italy with tour groups. Frank was proud to say he was named Florida Republican of the Year in 2000. They have lived in Callahan for 40

years. Betty worked for Pic-N-Save for many years; and later worked for Callahan Dollar General for 20 years. Frank still helps out in churches when needed and they are involved in missions. They celebrated their special milestone with a special dinner held in their honor with their family.

They have seven children: Kathrine Shearer of Callahan, Sarah (Casey) Jackson of Jacksonville, Frank, Jr. (Pamela) of Illinois, James (Rebecca) of Jacksonville, Jonathan (Ivy) of Callahan, Nathan (Jessica) of Live Oak and Matthew (Missy) of Atlanta. They also have 25 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.



Betty Vaughn Jackson to Celebrate 90th Birthday



Betty Vaughn Jackson, of Callahan, will celebrate her 90th birthday July 27. She was born to Cleo and Annie Vaughn on July 27, 1934, in Royston Georgia. Betty was one of eight children. She retired from the Georgia-Pacific Mill in Palatka with 25 years when she moved to Callahan with her late husband Stephen Jackson. She then proceeded to work 13 more years at the Hodges Poultry Farm for the Mizell family before retiring. Betty loves the Lord, loves attending church, and spending time with her family. Her family is blessed to still have her. She will be celebrating

her special milestone with friends and family at her church, Rehoboth Christian Fellowship.

Betty has seven children; 18 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great grandchildren.

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Westside Journal Visits Yellowstone!

Rory and Dana Henck, of Baldwin, formerly Bryceville, visited Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park, and enjoyed the week seeing buffalo, elk and more. Lucky for us, they even took along a copy of the Westside Journal!



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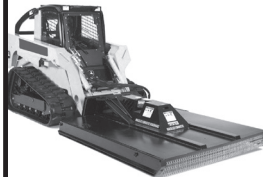
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POLICE REPORTS

Names, Addresses and all information appearing in the Police Reports are taken from the Sheriff's Department files and do not necessarily indicate guilt, only that arrests were made or charges were filed.

Monday, July 15

Brock Hand, 43, Callahan: DUI Influence of Alcohol; Refuse Breath Test

Tuesday, July 16

Nicholas Jackson Sweat, 41, Hilliard: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of less than 20 grams of Marijuana; Possession of Prescribed Drugs with no Prescription; Possession of Methamphetamine

Wednesday, July 17

Christopher Micah Barden, 51, Callahan: Out of County Warrant Felony

Jennifer Leigh Crumpton, 39, Callahan: Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Thursday, July 18

Daniel Allen Blackwell, 33, Callahan: Out of State Warrant

Friday, July 19

Anderson Jerome Holand, IV, Callahan: Failure to Appear

Saturday, July 20

Jamie Tiana Forrester, 26, Callahan: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of Methamphetamine

Tyler Andrew Patterson, 22, Hilliard: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession of Methamphetamine

Sunday, July 21

Erika Sloan Lacy, 32, Callahan: Out of County Warrant

Auditions at Blue Fire Theatre

Blue Fire Theatre in Yulee, will hold auditions for *Seussical the Musical*, Saturday, August 17 at the Yulee Lions Club at 851023 Highway 17 in Yulee. There will be two audition times, 10 a.m. -12 p.m. for youth actors ages 7-12; and 1 - 3 p.m. for teen and adult actors ages 13 and over. If you are unable to attend the audition in person, video submissions are being accepted through August 16.

The story follows Horton as he tries to convince the other animals in *The Jungle of the existence of the Whos*. Only his loyal neighbor, Gertrude McFuzz, never loses faith in him. *Seussical* weaves a story of friendship,



loyalty, and love.

Blue Fire is also looking to fill several volunteer opportunities for this show. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Nassau Education Foundation. For all the details on Blue Fire Theatre and the auditions visit: www.BlueFireTheatre.org.

Hilliard Little League's Annual Election

Monday, August 5th

6:30 p.m.
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OBITUARIES

SHEILA CREWS BRANDIES



Sheila Crews Brandies, 71, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, July 18, 2024. She was born August 20, 1952 in Folkston, to the late Chester T. Crews and Christine G. Crews. In addition to her parents; she is preceded in death by brothers Jerry M. Crews, Dennis R. Crews and Alton D. Crews.

She is survived by her sons Louie Glen Brandies, III and Chad T. Brandies; two brothers Floyd T. (Linda) Crews and D. Steven Crews; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, July 23 at Brickyard Cemetery with D. Steven Crews officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, 526 Oakwood Street, Folkston, 912-496-7388.

GEORGE "JOE" HASKEW



George Joseph "Joe" Haske, 76, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord July 20, 2024. He transitioned to his new home in Glory at Baptist Medical Center Downtown in the care of the wonderful staff of Hospice. He was born in Jacksonville to Eddie F Haske and Dot Evans Haske.

He was a devoted member of Calvary Baptist Church and was involved in many outreaches and was the coordinator of the Joy Ministries for many years. He spent time in many choirs and was the song director for several of his churches throughout his life. He was a member of Local 234 and was a pipefitter with W.W. Gay for the majority of his young adult life, and then worked as a courier driver for Quality Express Deliveries. He loved spending time with family, telling many stories of his time in the Local and of his life. He was known for his goofy personality, jokes, smile and laughter. He will be dearly missed by all who loved him.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Judith "Lynn" Pardue Haske; daughter Kimberly Haske (Ronnie) VanGorder; three grandchildren Ryan (Sarah) Dapprich, Traci (Sean) Shanahan and Ashley (Nomar) Edmonds; and five great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life service will be held Friday, July 26 at Calvary Baptist Church at 12 p.m. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. -12 p.m. He will be laid to rest at Trinity Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to: Missions Fund at Calvary Baptist Church, 4040 Dunn Ave., Jacksonville.

CLYDE DAVIS, JR.

Clyde Davis, Jr., 64, of Lee, Florida, passed away July 20, 2024 at his home in Lee, Florida. He was born June 11, 1960. He was a 1978 graduate of West Nassau High School.

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

Condolences may be expressed at www.srfhcallahan.com.

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They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.



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DOROTHY ANN MILLIGAN



Dorothy Ann Milligan, 70, of Callahan, passed away July 3, 2024 at home. Dorothy spent most of her life taking care of others, as a single mother, a grandmother, a daughter, a sister, and as a nurse. She enjoyed fishing, karaoke, and watching true crime documentaries. She also - begrudgingly - enjoyed spending time with her daughters' family pets. She was fiercely independent and quick witted, always keeping those around her laughing and on their toes. She loved to be by the water, whether it was the lake, river, or ocean, and was able to spend some of her last days at the lake with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents Jack Gordon and Vivian (Haddock) Carver; siblings Jeanette (Frank) Saig, James (Glenda) Gordon, Phillip Gordon and Glennie Chavis.

She is survived by her daughters Lorrie (Wayne) Bell and Sherri (Jeffrey) Milligan; grandchildren Halie (Nathanael) Kramer, Kennedy Crandell, Garrett Bell, Kaleb (Megan) Crandell and Laila Griffin; and one great-grandson Callan Kramer.

A private family celebration of life service will be held Sunday, July 28.

JOYCE SHARON PITTMAN



Joyce Sharon Pittman, 79, of Callahan, passed away July 19, 2024, peacefully at her home, with her family by her side. She was born March 16, 1945 in Bryceville, to the late Garrett Fletcher and the late Hazel Smith Seals. Joyce and the love of her life, Harry, wed on June 21, 1963, and were happily married for 61 years. Together they had three daughters; eight grandchildren; and five great-grands, who she enjoyed spending precious time with.

Joyce was a housewife who took care of her home and family. She was "The Mama" not only to her three girls but to her entire family. The love she had for them all was indescribable, and she always put everyone before herself. Joyce was a fabulous cook. She loved her roses and doing yard work, and she could sweep up a storm. Joyce will be deeply missed. She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Roger Fletcher and Teddy Fletcher; sister Diane Burns; and son-in-law, Tony Mathews.

OBITUARIES

Joyce leaves behind her loving husband, Harry Pittman; daughters Sherrie (late Tony) Mathews, Susan (Anthony) Farinella and Julie (Brenton) Holley; sisters Bonnie Wysocki, Janice (John) McGrath and Angie Bennett; grandchildren Elizabeth (Jeff) Brooks, Leah Farinella, Schuyler Mathews, Donald "DJ" Farinella, Kearsten Holley, Brealyn Holley, Jaden Holley and Braydon Holley; great-grandchildren Axl, Crew, Fortune "Ju", Nash and Adlei.

Pallbearers will be Schuyler Mathews, Donald "DJ" Farinella, Braydon Holley, Jeff Brooks, Aaron Wade, Holden Whiten, Jason Sheffield and Zach Tulen.

A celebration of Joyce's life was held Wednesday, July 24 at Callahan First Baptist Church with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770. Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.

WILLIAM F. WEIDENAAR



William (Bill) Frederick Weidenaar, of Hilliard, passed away July 5, 2024, at the Fernandina Respite Care Center in Fernandina. He was born March 12, 1949 to Elkie and Calla (Nordenstrom) Weidenaar of Braham, Minnesota.

Bill walked to the one-room schoolhouse in Grass Lake Township for the first year of his elementary education. The school was a mile from the farm his parents brought him home to from the Kanabec County Hospital in Mora, MN. Bill's mother often recalled the story of Bill walking home in the snow. His boot became stuck, and he slipped out of the boot and walked home without it. The one-room school closed and students from the little school were transferred to an elementary school in Grasston, MN. Bill graduated from Braham High School in 1967. Growing up on the farm, he had a lot of responsibility for helping with the cows and fieldwork.

Following high school, Bill worked at a gas station in Mora. He had a love for cars that endured his lifetime. The faster, the better. Bill also had the gift of conversation and was good at tending to customers at the station. He soon entered the United States Navy and served proudly from 1968-1972. Bill was stationed at the Jacksonville Naval

Base and the Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia. He served on the USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier, considered a supercarrier.

Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Bill secured a job at the United States Postal Service. He took advantage of numerous opportunities for advancement and finished his career as the Jacksonville Airport Postal Service manager.

Bill was united in marriage to Sherry Thompson, of Hilliard, on August 14, 1995. Together they made their home outside of Hilliard next door to Bill's parents, Elkie and Calla. He was preceded in death by his

parents, Elkie and Calla Weidenaar, brother, Jon Weidenaar, nephew, Jason Boeck, and paternal and maternal grandparents. God bless the memory of William (Bill) Frederick Weidenaar.

Bill is survived by his wife, Sherry; stepsons Howell Randy (Kari) Thompson and Brian (Jamie) Thompson; grandchildren Elizabeth Thompson, Anthony Thompson, Aveyen Thompson, Jaytin Thompson and Adeline Thompson; sisters Teresa Hasbrook, Carol (Rick) Brandt and Becky Anderson; and many extended family members and friends.

Please share your memories and condolences at www.oxleyheard.com.

Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors, Fernandina Beach.

CRAVEY FAMILY THANK YOU

The family of Cecil Cravey would like to thank Nassau Funeral Home, Pastor James Conner, and the many friends and family who supported us through this difficult time. Thank you all for the prayers, visits, cards, food and flowers sent on Cecil's behalf. We appreciated it very much.

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Nassau County Earns Distinguished Triple Crown Award

We are pleased to announce that Nassau County has received its first Triple Crown Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 2023 budget year. This is the highest honor a local government can achieve in financial reporting and further demonstrates the County's commitment and dedication to achieving the gold standard in transparency, financial responsibility, and public outreach. This award can only be achieved by earning all three (3) notable GFOA Awards in a budget year: The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, and the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award.



The Board of County Commissioners earned its second consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 23/24. In order to be considered, the Board had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as a policy document; a financial plan; an operations guide; and a communications device. The County had to be rated proficient in all four categories, and in fourteen mandatory criteria within each of those categories to receive the award.

Additionally, the Nassau County Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office has won its 17th consecutive GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for their Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the GFOA's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the 12th consecutive year.

Clerk of Court and Comptroller John A. Crawford stated, "We are so proud and honored! Winning this award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Clerk's office, the Board of County Commissioners, and their team. It demonstrates our commitment to transparency, accountability, and upholding the highest standards in governmental finance."

BOCC Chairman John Martin added, "This is the first time that Nassau County has been a recipient of the Triple Crown Award. We have worked hard to achieve the highest level of financial reporting and to provide a thorough, accurate and transparent budget process. I am extremely proud of everyone whose efforts contributed to this prestigious award."

To learn more about the GFOA and the Distinguished Budget Award, visit <https://www.gfoa.org/awards>.

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- **Expediting the County's 2022 Conservation Land acquisitions before more is sold to spontaneous development**
- **Supporting Economic Development toward inviting clean industry to the Crawford Diamond site**
- **Controlling growth as stewards of our County and its farms, rivers/creeks, wetlands, and beaches**

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