

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

Pray to God for Our Nation!

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 2

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

"HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM SUCH A DEADLY PERIL, AND HE WILL DELIVER US AGAIN. ON HIM WE HAVE SET OUR HOPE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DELIVER US." - JOHN 16:33

WN JROTC Attends Camp at The Citadel

Sarah Lucovsky

Several months ago, Mr. John Page sent a letter explaining a funding shortfall affecting the West Nassau Air Force JROTC program and our Cadet Leadership Camp attendance. In response to his letter, the community responded with overwhelming support and, as a result, the cadets that wanted to attend camp were able to do so. We just wanted to give everyone a quick update on how well our West Nassau AFJROTC cadets performed at this camp. None of the



following would have been possible without the generous support from the businesses, organizations and individuals. The cadets of West Nassau are extremely grateful for your support.

During June 20-26, thirty West Nassau High School JROTC cadets traveled to The Citadel in South Carolina to improve their skills in the #1 leadership camp held in the USA. There were 320 cadets from 7 states in attendance.



They developed a higher level of teamwork, communication and physical fitness. Once again West Nassau's cadets excelled and earned 96 awards.

We are very proud to announce the recipients of the major awards. Cadet Sarah Lucovsky won the Fleet Foot Female trophy for having the fastest mile time. Cadet Bailey Rounsville won the Top Individual Drill trophy.

The Distinguished

Graduates are those cadets who scored in the top 10% of all cadets. West Nassau had 3 recipients: Sarah Lucovsky, Elizabeth Robinson and Chloe Whaley. We had 6 cadre cadets who were the leaders of the camp: Destiny Rose, Ethan Nipper, Allen Register, Cole Miller, Lexie Decker and Logan Vaine. The Basic Cadets were: Trinity Bryce, Khristian Collins, Alanah Dohm, Blaine Gregory, Dallen Jenkins,



Hunter Johnson, Donovin Jones, Matthew Koller, Sarah Lucovsky, Nolan McKelvy, Waylon Miller, Weston Miller, Alexander Payne, Allen Price, Kendall Ratliff, Olivia Risinger, Elizabeth Robinson, Bailey Rounsville, Ethan Ryals, Jordan Vest, Jennifer Walker, Alexander Waltman, Ryland Weyburn and Chloe Whaley.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our cadets!

County 4-H'ers Compete at State

Nassau County 4-H horse exhibitors are making up for lost time after all the 4-H horse shows were cancelled last year. In May, six 4-H members competed at the Area Horse Show fully sponsored by Nassau County Farm Bureau. Half of the members were attending their first horse show and all six earned the qualifying points to compete at the Florida 4-H State Horse Show! The State Show class is significantly larger and is comprised of only the best from across all of Florida. In fact, some of the showmanship classes had more than 40 youth in them!

We are so proud to recognize the hard work and dedication our members have given to showing their equine companions in their divisions. Every Nassau County 4-H competitor came home with at least one ribbon from this prestigious show! Not only did they succeed competitively,



but they were also amazing examples of good sportsmanship to all. They always found a way to cheer each other on even when they were showing on opposite sides of the grounds and making new friends from other counties.

Our members are already making their plans to be better next year, so keep an

eye out for these young horsemen and women!

Placings: Lainey Walters: 7th in Stock Type Mares & Geldings 14.2 hands and under with her pony Tidbit; Lauren Walters: 6th Jr Western Pleasure on her horse Honey;

Raelin Tew and her self-trained horse Rein: 4th Jr Equitation over fences, 5th Jr Hunter Hack, and 10th Jr Hunter Showmanship; Emma Norstrom with Blue: 9th Senior Hunter Showmanship; Charlie

Norstrom with Rio: 9th Senior Ranch Roping; and Jack Norstrom with Merry: 9th Jr Western Showmanship, 6th Jr Western Pleasure Pony, 5th Stock Type Mares & Geldings 14.2 hands and under.

The 4-H Southern Regional Senior Qualifiers from Nassau County were: Emma and Charlie Norstrom.



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Heaven & Hell are Real

Dear Editor,

First, I lay no claim to be an ordained preacher, televangelist or master of God's Word. But I am sure that there are those that read the Westside Journal that have never put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. I want to do a little Bible trivia...again.

What I want to say here is that there are only two ways to get out of this world alive. One is your soul (the real you) will live eternally in a hell created for Satan and his followers. God never intended for us as humans to spend eternity there. But sin entered this world when Adam and Eve fell for the temptation by Satan and disobeyed God (sin) by eating of the forbidden fruit. Ref. Genesis 2:15-22; 3:1-6; Revelation 20:10-15. Sin separates us from a 'relationship' with God.

The other one is your soul (the real you) will live eternally in a place called heaven by trusting Jesus Christ to be your Savior and Lord. Ref. Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:10-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 22:1-5.

What I am getting at is that the way things are going in our great country, The United States of America, the world as we know it now may not be around much longer. Now, I am not trying to be a proclaimer of gloom and doom, but one day this world will be changed dramatically, called the tribulation and the great tribulation periods. And there will be a judgement day that follows for those who side with Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:1-10) and those who side with Satan (Revelation 20:11-15). Those who 'choose' to side with Jesus Christ will be with Him in Heaven for eternity and those who 'chose' to side with Satan will be cast into a fiery hell for eternity. Ref. Revelation 20:10-15; 21:1-8. Heaven & Hell Are Real!

I am not by any means claiming that this world as we know it now will end anytime soon. I am saying that it is possible. Just

Letters to the Editor

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

look around at our government and how it is changing to the radical left and against everything that is against God's Word. How our world is changing. We need to be prepared and know the 'Truth'.

The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left." Ec. 10:2

Hank Martinez, Sr.

The Value of Work

Dear Editor,

As the Biden Administration suggests a program to pay people to stay at home, it would seem a good time to be reminded of the Value of Work. History teaches us that commerce is essential to the survival of a country. The backbone of business is the American Worker. Whether in business, non-profit, academia, charity, volunteer or homemaker, your work is important. Our work may be fragmented, but we're not!

Our work has much more value than the paycheck at the end of the week. First, we are known by the work we do. Work is the way we go into the world, the mantle of our identity as much as our name. Second, work is the forum to apply our abilities and have a sense of belonging, the two most important attributes of social beings.

Next, our work is our relationship with ourselves, our primary source of information about ourselves. Because of its natural structure, it is an ideal place to make changes and to grow.

Finally, our work is our passage to the adult world where we get to learn and grow up in relation to the world around us. All work has value. In valuing your work, no matter what you do, you come to value yourself. Government

intervention is unacceptable. Anyone who tries to deprive you of the opportunity to do your work is committing one of the worst affronts imaginable to your humanness.

B.R. McConnell

Suppose We Get Real!

Dear Editor,

Let's talk about the subject of Global Warming. America is being held in bondage by accepting the idea that it's a scientific subject that can be solved by our own efforts. II Timothy 3:7 says, "In the last days people will be ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of truth."

This global warming idea has gotten out of hand! It's costing an untold burden financially to say the least. It's like chasing the wind and needless to say we'll reap the whirlwind. It's just vain thinking. Genesis 8:22, "As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."

What's happening is God/Jesus is trying to communicate to the human man, who thinks he is so smart and intelligent, that he needs to get in step with the way he's living as is found in the Book of the Ages (Holy Bible). God's patience is running thin; so He's giving us a warning, that if we don't straighten up and acknowledge Him, He'll make the land worthless. Ezekiel

33:29, "When I have ruined the land because of their sins, then they will know I am the Lord." We Christians, by the help of God, could change the tide of thinking by standing up and speaking up as God commands us in His scripture.

I'm inclined of the opinion that we have many Christians that have God in their mouth, but not in their mind and heart. Isaiah 32:8, "The Lord will guide you along the best pathway for your life I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:9, "Don't be like the senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

Why does our nation/people disregard God and live the low life? If our nation would turn to God and acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior in our government and in our lives, this global warming would subside. As a nation/people, we need common ground to reach higher ground. That ground I'm referring to is belief in what God says about the way we should live and think. I Kings 9:1-10, "...but if the people forget me, I will bring disaster upon them." It's speaking to the Israelites back in time, however Hebrews 13:8 says, "...Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forevermore."

So don't be attracted by strange new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace. God is Holy, so holiness will not allow Him to overlook sin. Holiness means morally perfect, pure and set apart from all sin. Only Jesus can qualify for his standard. Our nation and our leaders think they are so intelligent and smart by ignoring God. How sad it is!

In Jesus name,
Jack Lewis

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Armory, a Men's group, inspired by Ephesians 6:10-18 KJV, will meet Wednesday, Aug. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Pig Barbeque in Callahan.

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Dawn West Publisher
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Fish Talk

Where Are The Fish?

So what's the word on the water after all this rain? For starters, our redbfish have continued to be very consistent on the incoming tides. The use of cut baits such as mullet and crab are producing very well. Try to find cleaner water and focus on oyster shells where they are most likely to hold. Right now, you can find reds throughout Amelia Island. Large schools have been stacked up at the St. Mary's inlet. Mullet schools are thick and redbfish are right underneath them.

Next, flounder...what a great year so far! They are still being caught from St. Mary's to Talbot Island. The absolute best results are coming on the falling tides. Finger mullet and live mud minnows are the preferred bait but if you like throwing plastics, try Gulp plastics on a jig head, just make sure to adjust weight with tidal flow. If you need a few, talk to Lewis at Callie Kay's General Store & Outfitter. Again, many times artificial bait will out fish live bait. Focus on docks but do not overlook the small feeder creek run outs along the grass lines. Jacksonville continues to have a decent bite and that will only improve from now through October.

Moving on to sheepshead! Let me tell you, they are working the inshore rocks and oyster beds right now. The incoming tide has been best when the water cleans so keep that in mind. I look for the sheepshead bite to only get better in the next few months. You can also sight fish them during our flood tides.

If you are looking for big gamefish, tarpon and sharks are everywhere! Find the shrimp boats and find the fish. You can also find them at either of our Jetties in huge numbers. You can bet that they won't be far from schooling mullet. Stay on the mullet and you'll be all over the fish!

With that said, I hope you all have a great week. As always, I look forward to seeing you on the water!

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Anyone who knows me very well, knows that I have been adamantly anti-vaccination ever since it was made available. My reasons were fairly simple. I do not trust the Federal Government; I do not trust Dr. Fauci, I do not trust the medical profession, nor the pharmaceutical giants, or the big Tech mongrels. In this day and time there are very few things I trust. I trust God, my mama, my wife and most family members, and a couple of good friends (lol, now they are all wondering which ones).

My story on the vaccine has changed. Last week was a burdensome week for me, two close friends became infected by the Chinese Virus, one of which we became very concerned about the severity of it. We also had a friend who lost the battle last week and succumbed to the virus. This put my head into a continuous whirlwind as to what I should do. I take a regiment of Vitamin C, Zinc, Vitamin D3 and Five Defenders to boost my immune system, but my concerns kept crossing my mind.

Last Thursday, I was stressed to the max about what I should do, if anything. I had reached the point that I knew God was my only escape. I fervently prayed to God that night. I ask him to please tell me in a way I could understand what I should do concerning the vaccination.

Friday morning I went to my mother's home to take care of a chore, while there I became sick and I mean sick (STRESSED)! I sat down under the carport and my sister brought me a wet rag which helped tremendously. While sitting there, mama mentioned several times that she wanted me to get the vaccine. I started feeling better so I left to come home as her words kept running through my thoughts. Jesus was that you speaking through mama? Later that afternoon a family member called me, unaware of the day's happenings. First

thing he said was, "I'm thinking you need to go get the vaccine!"

Somewhat taken back from his comment, because he and his wife were opposed to the vaccine also. He told me they had just received their first dose that day. He told me he had prayed about it Tuesday night and asked God for a simple answer. Wednesday morning, with no conversation between the two, his wife out of the blue said, "I think we should get vaccinated." BOOM! There was his answer. Then another BOOM moment for me, this must be God's answer for me also.

I made an appointment to receive the vaccine at the Callahan Walgreen's Monday morning. The visit was not pleasant in the least. The pharmacy personnel were incompetent! So in frustration I left without them administering the vaccine. I went online and made an appointment with Winn Dixie in Hilliard where the personnel were very courteous and knowledgeable, unlike Walgreen's. Within less than fifteen minutes I walked out vaccinated. Thank you Winn Dixie!

My point here is not promoting people to get the vaccine. That is totally up to each individual, as the libs would say, "It's my body, and no one should force me on the decisions I so chose." My point here is to tell everyone that GOD is real. Jesus is here amongst us through His spirit just as when He walked this earth in person. He listens to his followers He answers his followers. Even simple minded people like me can openly talk to Jesus and then be quiet and patient to hear his response. He will respond! If only I could put my human discrepancies aside more often and just patiently listen for God, my life would be so much better and I would be a lot less stressed.

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

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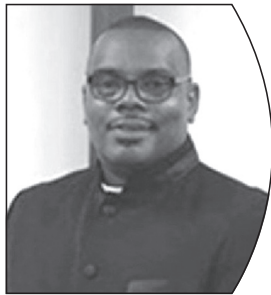
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Hear Ye the Word of God

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



Greetings, neighbors of West Nassau! What does it mean to hear the word of the Lord? Is it reading the bible, is it going to Sunday school and being taught, or going to listen to your favorite preacher speaker on Sunday mornings? Well, I would say, all of the above, a complete understanding of God's word will take all of it and then some. It's essential to read and hear God's word daily to get a complete understanding of how we should live and treat others.

From the beginning, we know that God created all that exists with words. John 1:1 tells us how powerful words are; it says, "In the beginning, was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was GOD." He uses the word with power; when he speaks, things come to reality. We are here because God created us with his words. We are in the image of the savior, his likeness loving, caring and compassionate. God's word tells us he loves us always. It doesn't matter what we have done; we can be forgiven for our sins by GOD. Hebrews, 4:12 reads, "For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

It's important to read God's word; 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us that we should study his word to show ourselves approved unto God. Learning his word helps manage stress in our lives. It can turn your life around and save your soul. By reading his word, you store bits of information that you can use daily. When we put the word into action, we benefit from it by casting our cares to him, as 1 Peter 5:7 tells us. The more knowledge you have, the better equipped you are to tackle any challenge you'll ever face. Remember, everything else is subject to fail but the word of God will never fail you. As you read God's word, your faith and confidence in Him will grow and you will begin to trust God more.

It may have been a while since you heard your preferred preacher on Sunday morning. Hearing the word of God helps with our understanding. God's word tells us in Proverbs 4:7 that wisdom is the principal thing in all thy getting gets an understanding. The Lord knows better than anyone else, all that awaits man's life. He knows every possible situation that a man could ever find himself in. God sees the danger that awaits every man and knows the wiles of Satan. He knows what is necessary for man's spiritual growth. Suppose we are effective witnesses for our Lord. In that case, we must spend time with God each day at his feet listening to his voice, so we can have the same experience as Jehoshaphat had, to testify that the word of God was with him. Brothers and sisters, I encourage you to hear ye the word of God.

Now that we have had a moment to reflect on the importance of reading and hearing the word of God, we can begin to put it into practice. Action helps us grow our faith with our Lord and Savior, as we find ourselves depending on God more each day. When reading and hearing the word of God, it's essential to apply it to our lives and change into his likeness. Doing so will make us better equipped for service to God and our neighbors. Now that we are aware of the importance of reading and hearing the word of God, stop by to listen to your favorite minister speak real soon. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.

Allen Griffin to Speak at Hilliard First Assembly

Pastor Arlie Johns, of Hilliard First Assembly, invites everyone to come hear Allen Griffin.

Allen Griffin was the guest speaker at the Baccalaureate services for the class of 2017. He is one of the most influential and effective speakers today. His dynamic presentation is both humorous and insightful. His message has led thousands to be eternally changed and empowered to in turn reach others.

Allen Griffin will be speaking this Sunday, August 1st at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Hilliard First Assembly of God, located at 550920 US Highway 1, a quarter of a mile south of the caution light at Eastwood Road in Hilliard. For more information, you can call the church office at 845-2642.



The Armory to Meet Next Wednesday

Brian Hazlett

The Armory is a fellowship of Christian Men inspired in part by Ephesians 6:10-18 KJV, a passage known as "The Armour of God." This passage of scripture has become especially important to us as we recognize that we are, whether we can see it or not, engaged in a spiritual battle. Men, in general, and Christians specifically, are bombarded continually from all directions by the things of the world as Satan tries to turn our focus away from Christ. The battle is real. We must learn not only to "put on the Whole Armour of God" and use it effectively.

Our members, collectively known as The Alliance, are of various ages and backgrounds and are in various stages in their Walk with Christ. The Men of The Armory commit to the effort of becoming examples and role models as: Prayer Warriors, Students of The Word of God,



Humble Servants, Teachers and Mentors, Bearers of the Fruits of the Spirit. We, each one of us, are a work in progress.

The Armory will meet Wednesday, August 4 at 7 p.m. at The Pig restaurant in Callahan. We invite all men, ages 15 to 120 (because we have to draw the line somewhere) to join us. It will be an evening of fellowship, discipleship and worship sponsored by The Armory.

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It's Not Paradise But...

Douglas Pearson

...It's a dream to those who don't have it. Where? Western Nassau County! When offered a position in the area, 47 years ago, we were very relieved that the offer wasn't in Miami or Atlanta. While making arrangements for the move we debated just where to locate in Southeast Georgia or Northwest Florida, while we got adjusted with the relocation. We found an area where the potential for peace, quiet and security promised to be great for the long term, even though the location was rural and with minimal amenities. As we adjusted and our family grew, we found a permanent home with lots of room for our young family. It was affordable with security and that small town feel. Folks knew each other and greeted everyone with a smile and a genuine caring for one another. Our children grew up and experienced an education where teachers cared, not only for their jobs but for their charges as they developed in front of their eyes.

Our street had three houses on it, and at the time it was unpaved. The finance company even told us that the only reason they approved our application for the mortgage was due to the other two existing homes on the road. Over time the street became paved and the city expanded the sewers to the neighborhood. Slowly, over the years, more houses were built but the original lot sizes remained the same as the single-family houses continued to be in the median range, providing a very stable and comfortable community. It was a location that was very secure and restful after a long day at work.

The generation of families from that time have all grown up and moved on, as we watched the immediate neighborhood continue to hold its charm and security. Now, in the last decade or so, lots have been developed and sold with more very nice homes occupying them. Young families have taken an interest in the area, as the schools continue to be the caring, top-notch facilities, which we depended upon those many years ago. Neighbors

know one another, and the security and professionalism of local law enforcement is still very reassuring. The existing homes are still cared for, as new houses fit the rural environment and the comfort zone around them.

Where once we sat in the front yard to watch our own kids play and grow we now do so watching, and being entertained, by new generations of families as their children enjoy the security and fun of being able to play outside without worry of the urban atmosphere that is perilous today in many communities. Our town still only has the one traffic light, and the people still smile at each other and engage in conversation that is reminiscent of the small town I grew up in nearly 75 years ago.

Now the area is showing some more growth, as other families recognize the potential for the good life. The old generations are still guiding the location as the new generations are assuming the roles of care-takers. More and more people are in search of what we've had over the decades and, with the increased concerns in other locations, it is no wonder our area is being sought out for a stable place to grow and raise a family. Paradise? No! But the location and environment that many wish they could find? You bet! We're still very happy that we found the west side of Nassau County, those many years ago.

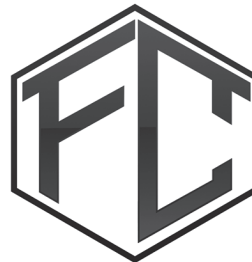
Tank Joins NCSO

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is proud to introduce its first comfort dog: Tank, a Bernese Mountain dog! A meet and greet was held Friday to meet the newest four-legged friend of the Sheriff's Department! His purpose is to comfort employees after stressful situations and also comfort community members on calls and at events. We are so excited to have him as a part of our agency. Tank is 2.5 years old and was trained at Lowell CI (women's prison). He was donated to us by Patriot Service Dog. His handler, Lt. Renee Graham is over Special Operations and deals with the public a lot.



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New Beginnings and Milestones

Happy 1st Birthday Aubryn Marie Bolger



Aubryn Marie Bolger celebrated her first birthday July 24. She celebrated her special day with a "One in a Melon" themed birthday party held in her honor with her siblings Anniston and Asher and lots of family and friends joining in the fun! Her proud parents are Adam and Ashley Bolger of Callahan.

Aubryn Marie is a blessing sent from God that was long awaited. Aubryn's smile shines bright and she has the sweetest temperament. She is the apple of her siblings' eyes. We are blessed to have her in our lives. We love you squeaks!

Westside Journal Visits Bearizona!

Candy Moore and Kathleen Scheibe celebrated Candy's surprise birthday trip in style. They flew to Vegas, drove to Arizona and stayed at the Hualapai Lodge on an Indian Reservation in Peach Springs for the week. They traveled each day to: Grand Canyon West Rim (yes we walked on the Skywalk), Williams AZ to Bearizona, Winslow, AZ, Flagstaff, Boulder City, NV (took a paddle boat on Lake Mead to see Hoover Dam), Grand Canyon South Rim (we did a Pink Jeep Sunset tour), and Las Vegas, NV. We had a wonderful week!



Hilliard All Stars District Champs



Hilliard Little League's Junior Softball All Stars team recently defeated Callahan to become the 2021 District 11 Champs! The team includes: Khloe Hardcastle, Raely Beasley, Haven Beasley, Jaiden Theriault, Abigail Pickett, Destiny Haddock, Bailey Kelley, Kailyn Ballance, Taylor Clair, Elizabeth Garrison, Mackenzie Milton, Peyton Milton and EmmaRae Roberson. The coaches were Jody Pickett, Gene Milton and Mark Haddock.

Westside Journal Visits Tennessee!



Melba Harris, of Callahan, took a copy of the Westside Journal to the 21st Annual Tri-City Gospel Music Camp in Kingsport, Tennessee. This is a Christian oriented camp. There are classes in music reading, singing, directing, theory and song writing. Private lessons are also available. There are both on and off campus students.

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New Administrators for the 2021-22 School Year

The Nassau County School District recently announced new school administrators for the upcoming 2021-2022 school years.

Lee Ann Jackson, Principal of Callahan Intermediate School. Mrs. Lee Ann Jackson has been in education for 35 years in Nassau County. She is proud to say she is a Warrior from way back as she graduated from West Nassau County High School. Lee Ann moved with her family as a teenager and has been a resident of Hilliard for almost 50 years. She is married to Freddie Jackson Jr. and has two children, Ryan and Kristen. She is also delighted to have five grandchildren.



She has worked as an elementary teacher at Hilliard Elementary and Callahan Elementary schools. Most of her time, 23 years, was at Callahan Intermediate School as principal and Hilliard Elementary School as a principal for seven years. She is very excited and grateful to return to Callahan Intermediate and is looking forward to working with the school and community.

Kim Shumate, Principal of Callahan Middle School. Mrs. Kim Shumate is a life-long resident of Nassau County. She is a graduate of West Nassau High School. Mrs. Shumate began her career in education in 2010 as a fifth-grade teacher at Callahan Intermediate School.



For the last two years, she has served all the middle schools in our district as a curriculum resource teacher and instructional coach working with teachers, assistant principals, and principals.

Mrs. Shumate is excited and proud to be a Rambler! She looks forward to working with students, teachers, parents, and the community to educate our future.

Edward Brown, Principal of Alternative and Adult Education. Edward Brown has been an educator in Nassau County for the past 28 years. A graduate of Fernandina Beach High School, Mr. Brown attended Bethune Cookman University on a football scholarship. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and later earned a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership from the American College of Education. Mr. Brown will now serve as the Principal of Alternative and Adult Education.



Anna Crawford, Principal of Fernandina Beach Middle School. Anna Crawford earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgia College and State University and began her career as a middle school teacher and instructional coach. She received a master of arts in



education from Valdosta State University and her doctorate of education from Nova Southeastern University. Over the last 15 years, she was an assistant principal at the elementary and secondary levels in the Flagler County School District and most recently served as the principal of Wadsworth Elementary School. Excited to be a part of the Nassau County School District, Dr. Crawford is eager to "set sail" with the dedicated staff and students at Fernandina Beach Middle School.

Jonathan Goodwin, Assistant Principal of Fernandina Beach Middle School. Mr. Jonathan Goodwin has been a part of the Nassau County School District for the past five years at Yulee High School. During his time at YHS, he taught U.S. History, World History, and AP Psychology. Mr. Goodwin wanted to work in education after being inspired by his 11th grade U.S. History teacher, so he attended Florida State University and received a bachelor's degree in Social Science Education. Over the past five years as a teacher and student government advisor,



he has helped redefine Yulee High School's culture for students, faculty, and the community. Mr. Goodwin has created history curriculum maps for the district and collaborates between Social Studies and ELA teachers. Mr. Goodwin looks forward to working alongside Dr. Crawford and the phenomenal faculty and staff, helping students set sail on a sea of excellence.

Emily Wiggins, Digital Classroom Support Specialist. Emily Wiggins is excited to begin working as the Digital Classroom Support Specialist for the Nassau County School District! Ms. Wiggins is a graduate of Valdosta State University, where she received her bachelor's degree in early childhood and special education. She pursued a master's degree in early childhood education from Valdosta State University, graduating in 2015. She began her career teaching fifth grade and went on to work in a Learner Active Technology Infused Classroom. During this time, she implemented and designed lessons around projects solving authentic, real-world problems, utilizing technology to enhance student independence and engagement. Since moving to the Nassau County area, Ms. Wiggins has been teaching 4th grade at Yulee Elementary.



She received her bachelor's degree in early childhood and special education from Valdosta State University, where she received her bachelor's degree in early childhood and special education. She pursued a master's degree in early childhood education from Valdosta State University, graduating in 2015. She began her career teaching fifth grade and went on to work in a Learner Active Technology Infused Classroom. During this time, she implemented and designed lessons around projects solving authentic, real-world problems, utilizing technology to enhance student independence and engagement. Since moving to the Nassau County area, Ms. Wiggins has been teaching 4th grade at Yulee Elementary.

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EMPLOYMENT CONT.

The Town of Callahan is seeking to fill the position of **TOWN CLERK.** This is a full-time position and training will be available. Applicants must be able to attend Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Applicants must be able to assist and eventually perform the various duties of the Town Clerk. Applicants must be able to be bonded, insured and secure a Notary Stamp. Applicants must be proficient with Microsoft Office 365. Applicants must either be a "Certified Clerk" with all current Florida certifications or willing to become certified within two (2) years of hire date. Salary will be based upon applicant's qualifications and experience. Please submit resume to the Town Clerk at: clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov or at Callahan Town Hall, 542300 US Hwy 1, until position is filled. Individuals with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in the program or activity should contact the office of the Town Clerk, Stephanie Knagge, at (904) 879-3801 or clerk@townofcallahan-fl.gov at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodation. 72921

CLIENT CARE COORDINATOR: Local Home Inspection Company looking for a detail-oriented individual with great communication skills. Honesty, integrity and a calm demeanor with clients is a must. Interested applicants can email resumes with work references to: info@neflhomeinspections.com. For more information about our company, please visit: neflhomeinspections.com. 72221



YARD SALES

INDOOR YARD SALE FUNDRAISER: Friday, July 23 & Saturday, July 24; and July 30 & Saturday, July 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hilliard Baptist Church, 5288 3rd Highway 1. Clothes, household goods, crafts, homemade holiday decorations, etc. Proceeds are for the church's Christmas Toy Drive.

YARD SALE, SATURDAY, 8 a.m. until? Lake Hampton Road, 1/4 mile off US 1 in Boulougne. Something for everyone! Look for signs!

HUGE YARD SALE! Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. until? 44233 Knott's Landing, US 301 off Bellamy Road, Callahan. A variety of everything including vintage toys!

EXTREME DEAL GARAGE SALE! Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. until? 5 miles north of Hilliard on Pike Road. Look for signs! Mostly brand new items; most Marked 50% below retail! School supplies and Character Backpacks! Toys including LOL, Barbie, etc. Something for everyone! Rain or Shine!

FRIDAY, JULY 30 & SATURDAY, JULY 31, north of Hilliard to Andrews Road. Fence Charger, bookcase, tools, houseware and 4 kitchen chairs! Follow signs!

AMHURST OAKS COMMUNITY YARD SALE! SATURDAY, 8 a.m. until? Amhurst Oaks subdivision Callahan. Something for everyone!

CATS ANGELS will be at God's Bridge Ministries between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, July 31. Free animal food! Located behind CVS Callahan.

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1BR CAMPER TRAILER, Callahan, no smoking, drugs or pets, \$275/month; \$200/deposit. Call 904-343-7819. 80521

Clothing Giveaway Saturday!

Be the Change NE FL will hold a community clothing giveaway on Saturday, July 31 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., 14244 Pace Road, Jacksonville! All are welcome to get clothing for your family. No resellers!

A Yard Sale will also be held to raise funds for the nonprofit!

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GBLG Ministries Pastor to Visit Cuba with Provisions

GBLG (God's Bridge Lamb of God) Ministries, located behind CVS Pharmacy in Callahan, continue their efforts to help those in need not only for our residents in and around Callahan, but also abroad. While covering Africa, Dominican Republic, Haiti and the island of Cuba, they have been able to assist with monthly donations, cell phones and supplies for over 18 months.



Now GBLG Ministries and their president and founder, Senior Pastor JO Lebron is scheduled to depart back to the island of Cuba for his second tour on August 26, 2021. Only this time, it could be a little different considering the recent riot events never seen before in the 62-year history of their communist regime. The beautiful island is only 90 miles away from the US and home of the USMC infantry divisions at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba or (GITMO) southeast of the island.

Pastor Lebron is an experienced evangelical missionary willing to go in the midst of Cuba's current and alarming situation, to assist the eight (8) churches his ministry has been assisting since March of 2020. Let us not forget the fact that Cuba has been, for the past six (6) decades, hostile to anyone attempting to engage in a conversation about human rights, freedom of speech, etc. Cuba still is an extremely dangerous country, where many pastors with no real calling other than to preach the Gospel or help the needy, can and are usually arrested and taken to prisons.

God's Bridge Lamb of God ministries pastor and the manager of their Thrift Store,

Ms. Linda D. Lee, is reaching out to all of us who believe in freedom whether Christians, atheist or any religion, to come forward and help accomplish this mission. Our mission? To continue bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ along with the necessary material help to our brothers and sisters in that imprisonment island.

The government of Cuba, as of July 19, 2021, has opened the doors to people from everywhere to bring their people whatever the airlines allowed us to bring in, with no charge on their end. Therefore, they need everything now. God's Bridge will be taking: over-the-counter prescriptions such as Tylenol, Vicks in gel, Nasal Spray, Aspirin, Advil, Ibuprofen, face masks, toothpaste, body soap bars, razors, old 4G smart cell phones, etc.

If you would like to partner with us, please call 904-377-7790 or 904-713-1568. Donations of items may be brought to our ministry. Monetary donations may be mailed to PO Box 777, Callahan, FL 32011; or by visiting our ministry facilities behind CVS Pharmacy in Callahan (a receipt for a tax-deductible donations will be available).

POLICE REPORTS

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

Tuesday, July 20

Katherine Epiphany Slingerland, 30, Callahan: No Valid Driver's License

Wednesday, July 21

Willie Ervin Nobles, Jr., 56, 27275 Iowa Street, Hilliard: Deprive 911 Communications; Battery of Person older than 65

Richard Derek Nelson, 37, 1097 Mulberry Landing Road, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine

Thursday, July 22

Sean Lee Sharon, 51, 476503 Middle Road, Hilliard: Out of County Warrant; Habitual Traffic Offender

Sunday, July 25

William Cleve Hash, 54, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine (x 2); Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon

Jonnie Shane Butler Roberts, 49, 474694 Middle Road, Hilliard: Possession of Cocaine; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Exhibitors Needed for Health Fair

Calling all Exhibitors for the 8th Annual Senior Expo & Health Fair, Sept. 10! Nassau County Council on Aging (NCCOA), in partnership with Baptist Health, presents the 8th Annual Senior Expo & Health Fair on Friday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Atlantic Recreation Center, 2500 Atlantic Avenue in Fernandina Beach. The event is free and open to the general public.

We are currently recruiting exhibitors; in 2019, more than 60 health service providers, state and local government agencies, and other senior service organizations and businesses participated in this annual

event. If you or your business provides any type of product or service for the senior population and would like to participate, please register at <https://conta.cc/3rj7GzF>. Space is limited so complete the online registration form and send your \$75 registration fee ASAP. Registration includes parking, half an 8-foot table and chairs, local publicity and snacks. (Federal, state and local agencies may request a waiver.) The deadline for inclusion in the event is Friday, July 30. Register today!

Questions? Contact Margo Morlock, NCCOA Volunteer Manager, mmorlock@nassaucountycoa.org.

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FRANK JOSEPH 'JOE' BLANTON



Frank Joseph 'Joe' Blanton, 59, of Callahan, passed away Friday, July 23, 2021. Joe was born July 31, 1961 in Jacksonville. Joe's tireless

work ethic and desire to take care of his family began when he served in the Army National Guard in the 146 Signal Battalion for 6 years. He then continued his work at Maxwell House for 21 years and then at Anheuser-Busch for 20 more years. He also served several years as a coach and mentor at Callahan Little League, making a difference in so many players lives.

Joe always enjoyed spending time with his family and friends especially at the lake and had a passion for playing golf. He was a humble man; a family man. A devoted husband and father, but being "Pa" was one of the highlights of his life. It was pure joy to watch him and his five favorites together. His grandchildren were his world. His love and guidance will be instilled in them forever.

His passing is preceded by both his father and mother Daniel Lee Blanton and Johnnie Boyd Blanton; two of his brothers Charles T. Blanton and Robert W. Blanton; and his two sisters-in-law Mary Blanton and Sue Blanton.

Joe's memory will be kept alive by his loving wife of 39 years, Tina Blanton; his two children Josh (Stefanie) Blanton and Kelli (Matthew) Geiger; his five grandchildren Bode and Ripkin Blanton and Zayne, Tripp and Paxten Geiger; as well as his six brothers Harry Blanton, John Blanton, Richard Blanton, Steve (Janet) Blanton, Rodger (Diane) Blanton and Jeff (Sharon) Blanton; and his sister Vickie Blanton; three brothers-in-law Tommy Cameron, Jr., David (Subrina) Cameron and Tracy Cameron.

The family received friends Tuesday, July 27 at Nassau Funeral Home. A Celebration of Joe's life was held Wednesday, July 28 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

OBITUARIES

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

DERRY 'BUTCH' DEBERRY



Derry 'Butch' Woodrow DeBerry, 75, of Hilliard, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on May 24, 2021 at home, with his loving sister

Patsy by his side. Butch was born in Humboldt, Tennessee on August 25, 1945. His family moved to Jacksonville Beach quickly thereafter, where he spent his childhood. He attended Duncan U. Fletcher High School. At the age of 18, he joined the military, where he served in the United States Army Intelligence honorably and with distinction as a Sergeant during the Vietnam Era.

After returning home from his five years of service, primarily in Europe, he went on to achieve his BS degree from Jones College in 1973. Butch enjoyed working in the Beverage Industry and was awarded many accommodations and awards. His love of the industry led him to continue working and resetting stores after his retirement up until the age of 71. Butch is an active member of the American Legion Post 401, Hilliard and spent many nights enjoying some of his lifelong hobbies with his fellow Veterans and friends, especially singing Karaoke. Singing, writing music and playing guitar were all some of his favorite pastimes, all while supporting his favorite football teams the Florida Gators and the Jacksonville Jaguars. He was a huge Tim Tebow fan!

But when asked what his all-time favorite thing to do was, his answer was playing and spending time with his beloved grandchildren, Nikolos, MaKensie, Matthew, Crystal, Alyssa and his great-great niece and nephew, Peyton and Ronin.

On his worst days, the mention of their names, a picture or a video always brought a smile to his face. Butch was predeceased in death by his parents Thelma Louise Cato and James Oliver Cato; and his brothers Jerry Cato and Steve York.

He is survived by his son Jeffery (Beth) DeBerry; and his step-son Chris Perry; siblings Patsy York, Judy (Sal) Pino, Billie Joe (Jean) Cato and Randy (Richie) Cato; his grandchildren; and many adoring cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and loved ones, including his very best friend of 40+ years, Charles Lloyd. Please join us in celebrating Butch's life Friday, August 6 at 12:30 p.m. at The Journey Church/ West Campus, 550974 US 1, Hilliard. He will be escorted to his final resting place at Jacksonville National Cemetery, with full Military Honors at 2:30 p.m.

RUTH DEAN DEVEREAUX



Ruth Dean Griffis Devereaux, 85, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord on July 24, 2021. She was born on June 20, 1936 to the late Ottis Griffis and Isabell Thornton Griffis. Ruth was a member of Callahan First Baptist Church and enjoyed attending services there along with singing in the choir. One of Ruth's favorite traditions was having lunch after Sunday services. Ruth enjoyed vacationing with friends, traveling and gardening. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Bobby Devereaux; brothers Raymond Griffis, Albert Griffis and Curtis Griffis; sisters Valerie Griffis Jones, Vinnie Griffis Graham and Leottie Griffis Thornton; and grandson Clinton Stewart Devereaux.

Ruth is survived by her sons Bobby

Marcus Devereaux, Michael Anthony Devereaux, Mitchell Ottis (Rhonda) Devereaux, all of Callahan; daughter Melissa Dean (David) Bedsole of Callahan; brother Colvin Griffis; sisters Evon Griffis Byrge, Lydia Griffis Hart, Roxie Griffis Litton, Kathryn Griffis Wright and Linda Kimbrell; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family received friends Wednesday, July 28 prior to the celebration of life service at Callahan First Baptist with Pastor Lynn Hyatt officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery.

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

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

BERTHA 'ANN' DUPREE



Bertha 'Ann' Dupree, 80, of Callahan, passed away July 10, 2021. She was born on October 15, 1940 in Banks County, Georgia, to the late Thomas William Truelove and Lilly Mae Smith. Ann worked as waitress at various family-owned restaurants in Callahan for over 30 years. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Ann is survived by her daughter Jean Brown of Callahan; grandchildren Charles Lee Brown, Jr., Cassie (Cole) Johns and Jessica (Eric) Battle, all of Callahan; great-grandchildren Carson Johns, Cameron Johns and Lillith Battle; siblings Martha Mimbs, Clarence (Madelyn) Mimbs, Jr. and Lois Powle.

The family will receive friends Monday, August 2 at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home prior to the Celebration of Ann's life at 2 p.m.

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

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

Hilliard Little League's Annual Election
Wednesday, August 11th
6:00 p.m.
Hilliard Ball Park on Bay Rd.
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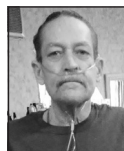
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OBITUARIES

MARTIN LUTHER HATFIELD



Martin Luther Hatfield, 59, of Hilliard, passed away at his residence July 24, 2021, following a lengthy illness. He was born in Tuscola, Illinois, to the late Elmo Clyde Hatfield and Sandra Kay Moshier Hatfield. He was a proud member of the Hilliard Chapter of the Blank Check Society.

He is survived by his fiancé Brenda Nelson; two brothers Curtis Lang and Paul Hatfield; a sister Tina Lamb; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Memorialization will be by cremation.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

MARTHINE HUTCHISON



Marthine Hutchison, 90, of Callahan, passed away on July 9, 2021. Marthine made her entrance into this world on March 15, 1931 in Screven, Georgia. She was the daughter of Wade Wasdin and Mary Smith Wasdin. Her mother passed away within 3 weeks after she was born.

In 1948, she graduated from Screven High School where she played basketball. She moved to Jacksonville to live with an aunt and work in a jewelry store. She met Elmer and the dream of having a family of her own began to take shape.

Marthine and Elmer married in Alamogordo, New Mexico in 1952 and returned to Jacksonville shortly thereafter where she lovingly welcomed and raised their 3 children: Linda, Elmer (Butch) Jr. and Dorothy (Lynn). Later in life, Marthine returned to the work force in the hospitality industry at the Sheraton, where she remained until her retirement.

There are a few that were lucky enough to be born into that family she loved so tender and joyfully, but she is often referred to as everyone's mom, and as the years went on she was addressed as Grandma, Grammy or Gummy more often than any other name.

Marthine was one of the most-tender, loving, sweet and funny women there was. To know her was a treat and to be love by her was an honor.

She was preceded in death by her parents Wade and Mary Smith Wasdin; step-mother Beulah Wasdin Welch; husband Elmer Hutchison; brothers Carroll and Leon Wasdin; and sister Shirley Wasdin.

She is survived by her daughter Linda (Michael) Kelly, granddaughter Robin Kelly (Jeremy) Dreskin, great-grandchildren

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Emily and Laszlo Dreskin, grandson James Kelly; son Butch Hutchison; daughter Lynn (Julian C.) Walker, step-grandsons Aaron Walker (Amber Lewis), great-grandchildren Ansley and Avery Walker and Rhett Walker (Sarah Haines).

The family received friends Sunday, July 11 at Oxley-Heard Funeral Home in Fernandina Beach. A graveside service was held Tuesday, July 13 at Chapel Hills Cemetery in Jacksonville with Rev. Shirley Dandelake officiating.

JAMES 'JOHN' MORGAN



James 'John' Morgan, 52, of Bryceville, passed away on July 25, 2021. He was born on October 21, 1968 in Orange Park, to James and Joyce Morgan. John was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and boating. John's smile was infectious and was always the center of attention when he entered a room. He was a loving and devoted son and father. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

John leaves behind his parents James and Joyce Morgan; children Garrett Morgan and Ashlee Wright; sister Janice (Billy) Loudermilk; devoted and loving friends Sheri Chevalier and Myrna Hope Taylor; and numerous extended family members and a host of friends.

A Celebration of John's life will be held Thursday, July 29 at 12 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Cody Page officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

TOMMY NELSON



Tommy Nelson, 57, of Hilliard, passed away Monday, July 26, 2021, in Jacksonville, following a lengthy illness. He was born September 3, 1963 in Folkston, to the late Leon Adel Nelson and Janie Irene Carver Nelson. He was a member of First Avenue Baptist Church.

He is survived by a sister Penny Stephanie Nelson; an Uncle Bobby Carver; four aunts Catherine Carver, Connie Carver, Bonnie Cooper and Hazel Barker;

two nieces and one nephew. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by a half-sister Donna Lee Tatlock; and his grandparents Zack and Annie Nelson and Jessie and Mary Carver.

A graveside funeral service will be held Friday, July 30 at 10:30 a.m. in Oakwood Cemetery, Hilliard, with Pastor Hal McIntosh officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

CHESTER EUGENE WEAVER



Chester Eugene Weaver, 87, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, July 22, 2021 at his home following a lengthy illness. He was born in Marion, Indiana on April 6, 1934 to the late James Nathan Weaver and Pearl Ellen Hansley Weaver. He was a Master Mason and was

raised in 1961. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #295 in Indiana and was a member of the Hilliard Lodge #208 where he served as Worshipful Master in 1986.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by a son Craig Eugene Weaver; a sister Neuberta Weaver; four brothers Floyd Weaver, Orvin Weaver, Melburne Weaver and Larry Weaver; a grandson Brad Boots; and a son-in-law Tom Ipock.

He is survived by his children Carmen Weaver, Cathy Ipock, Christina (James) Pope and Chester Weaver, II; his brother Marvin (Donna) Weaver; 11 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and 25 great-great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Saturday, August 7 at Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home in Marion, Indiana from 11-1 p.m. Funeral services will follow in the funeral home chapel beginning at 1 p.m.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston and Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home, Marion, Indiana.

Reeves Family Thank You

We would like to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to everyone for their kindness during the loss of our dear mother, Geraldine Reeves. We have been comforted by your words and strengthened by your support. Your expression of love and sympathy was appreciated more than words can express and will always be remembered.

In Loving Memory of Brenda Joe Green

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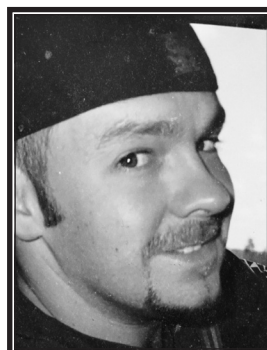
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Naturally Nassau: Vacations End, But Memories Remain

Nancy Lee Bethea

Our 2021 Montana vacation has ended, but we made lots of memories. Some of them are funny, some are sweet and some are downright strange. All will be cherished, though. I wrote journal entries each day of our trip so I'd remember the sites we saw and the people we met. I'm glad I did. Otherwise, I would probably forget parts of our trip. Since many of you told us you enjoyed hearing about our vacation, I thought I'd share a few of our funnier memories with you.

Hiking Boots: I bought a nice pair of hiking boots years ago when I lived in South Carolina. The boots protected my feet on trails in Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina. After moving back to Florida and marrying Stan, the boots traveled with us to Colorado, Utah, Montana and Wyoming. We decided to hike the Bunsen Peak Trail our first day in Yellowstone. The trail, named after the scientist who invented the Bunsen Burner, climbs 1300 feet through forest and meadow. It is quite steep in some places. As flatlanders, we found ourselves breathing hard during much of the hike.

I heard a flopping sound in my right hiking boot as we neared the peak. Looking at my feet, I realized the sole of my beloved right boot had come apart. The two layers of the sole at the toe area had separated on the first full day of vacation! Thankfully, I packed a pair of sneakers along with my hiking boots, which I wore for the remainder of the trip.

Sunscreen Can: As Floridians, most of us know we should protect our skin from harmful sun rays. The same is true out west. During the long hours of daylight in Big Sky Country, a person can get sunburned quickly. We packed a new spray can of sunscreen for the trip and we used it multiple times a day. It did its job. Only Hayden, our daughter, got a slight burn on the back of



her neck while we waited for Old Faithful to erupt one afternoon. The sunscreen can, however, returned home with us dented, scratched, and quite empty!

Bear Spray: We were told many times to be mindful of both grizzly and black bears on the trails we hiked in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Clapping, singing, talking and hiking, in groups of three or

more people, supposedly keeps bears away. Park rangers also recommend buying or renting bear spray, which is basically a stronger-than-normal form of pepper spray.

Before we left, Stan prepared an hour-long playlist of music for us to enjoy on our hikes. He also purchased a small external Bluetooth speaker he hooked onto his hiking backpack. Needless to say, we did not purchase or rent bear spray. Stan figured with our playlist and with our daughter (who likes to talk A Lot), we would be okay.

We saw many families, however, who did hike with bear spray. In most cases, the dad wore the

bottle of bear spray hooked onto his belt so he could easily access it in case of a bear spotting. Funny thing was the kids and the wife were usually in front of the dad on the trail. Stan said the dads were letting their families fight off the bears!

Lack of Air Conditioning: During our first week in Yellowstone, we stayed in a small - I mean 75 residents small-Montana town called Cooke City. It's a picturesque place with a general store, a few hotels and charming restaurants. In fact, one place near our hotel is both a bakery and an auto parts store in one! On our first night in Cooke City, Stan tried to turn on the air conditioner in our room. Puzzled, he asked about it at the front desk. "We don't have air conditioning, honey. We just don't need it here," the female staff member replied.

This meant sleeping with our window open to the sounds of the Montana nighttime, which turned out to be quite nice!

Horse Walk: Hayden and I decided to horseback ride in both Yellowstone and Glacier. The rides were beautiful and gave us a different perspective of both national parks. Stan decided to hike and take photographs on his own while we rode. When he came to pick us up after our rides, he watched me get off my horse. Laughing, he proceeded to make fun of my after-a-long-horseback-ride walk. Thankfully, he did not get a picture of my bowlegged gait!

When you are on vacation with your family and friends, I encourage you to keep a travel journal, take lots of pictures and just be impulsive. Stop by that sweet shop and have the huckleberry snack, or pull off the road to read that historic marker. You may never have the opportunity again. You'll be glad you made the memories!

Nancy Lee Bethea is a Callahan resident who teaches Creative Writing at LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville. She is also a freelance writer.



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