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to God for  
Our Nation!**

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

**Happy  
4th  
of  
July**

VOLUME XX ISSUE 48

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024

HE SAYS, "BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD; I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS,  
I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH." - PSALM 46:10



Join us Thursday, July 4 at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds, 543378 US Highway 1, Callahan, as the Towns of Hilliard and Callahan and the Nassau County Bicentennial present an incredible 4th of July Celebration. The gates will open for the festive event at 4 p.m. Thursday.

For the past three years, the towns of Hilliard and Callahan have joined together to present the fireworks display. This year, in honor of Nassau County Celebrating their Bicentennial, the county has also joined forces in donating more money to make this Fireworks Display bigger and better!

The event is free to the public! Entry and parking will be off of Musslewhite Road. Guests are encouraged to bring your lawn chairs and enjoy all the festivities on the midway field. There will be several food trucks in the

midway for purchasing your favorite foods, snacks and drinks. There will also be some carnival style games provided by local businesses and groups.

There will be live music at the pavilion featuring Four Barrel and Whiskey Heart beginning at 4:30 p.m. The bands will be highlighting music that was produced, mixed or engineered by Nassau County's very own Rodney Mills. Mr. Mills will also be presented with a proclamation from the Town of Hilliard proclaiming Rodney Mills Day in the Town of Hilliard, July 4, 2024. Mr. Mills and his family will be present for the entire day enjoying all the events.

Following is a line-up and times of events happening up until the Fireworks Display.

4 p.m.: Gates open! National Anthem: The Star-Spangled Banner by

Naomi Whitmore and Sorci Whitmore followed by a Gospel Performance by Trinity United Methodist Church and tribute to Rodney Mills featuring Rev. Granardo Felix, Daniel Daily, Dean Dixon, and Ulysses Salett.

Most Patriotic Attire Contest judging begins (booth under the pavilion at 4 - 6 p.m.). Participants can dress in their most patriotic outfits and stop by the judges' booth to enter the contest. The top 5 entries will be selected. At 7:30 p.m., with the crowd's help, the panel of judges will select the winner.

4:30 p.m.: Pie baking contest submissions accepted (covered tent in front of the fairgrounds). Rules for pies as follows: Entry Fee: \$5 per pie (cash only); Submission Requirements: All pies must be homemade; Pies must be submitted from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., NO Late submissions. Each pie must

be accompanied by a 3x5 card with the following information: Registrant name; Recipe name; List of ingredients; and List of all common food allergens (e.g., This pie contains nuts, soy, etc.).

5 p.m.: Registration for the watermelon eating contest (3 Divisions) begins at Pavilion. Competition begins at: Kids (Ages 4-12): 6:30 p.m.; Teens (Ages 13-17): 6:45 p.m.; Adults (Ages 18+): 7 p.m.

6 - 8:50 p.m.: Live music by Whiskey Heart.

6 p.m.: Pie Baking Contest Winners announced (must be present to win).

8:50 p.m.: Live music by Curt Towne Band.

9 p.m.: Rodney Mills proclamation; followed by the National Anthem.

9:15 p.m.: Fireworks display begins with Free Bird Jam by Whiskey Heart during the fireworks.

## American Flag Retirement Ceremony Thursday

A US Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held this Thursday, July 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Callahan Speedway, as they have graciously permitted this ceremony to take place on the infield of the race track. Following the Memorial Ceremony, where thousands of American Flags will be retired, attendees are encouraged to stay and observe the July 4th Fireworks Celebration from the comfort of the stands at the speedway. The event is free to attend.

When and how is the right time to retire an American Flag? Per the United

States Code 36 U.S.C. 176 (k): The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. US Flags are properly



inspected to ensure they are unserviceable and ready for retirement. Numerous veteran/patriotic organizations and also the Westside Journal accepts US Flags to be properly retired. The American Legion Post 401 in Hilliard has started a program titled, "Flags Across Nassau." When you drop off a 3' X 5' flag, the American Legion Post 401 will reimburse you with a new flag.

The following is just a little history of our American Flag, Old Glory, Stars and Stripes. From its inception, the American

flag has been an important part of our nation's history. Surviving over 200 years, the flag has both physically and symbolically grown and developed in times of both achievement and crisis. The American flag is a symbol known worldwide. It has been the inspiration for holidays, songs, poems, books, artwork and so much more. The flag has been used to display our nationalism, as well as our rebellion, and everything else in between. The flag is so important that its history tells the story of America itself. It represents  
*See 'American Flag' on page 3*

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## A Word From the Publisher

I don't know about everyone else, but Roger and I are thanking Jesus for the rain! Our little piece of heaven in Hilliard has been missing the rain showers for quite some time. Our grass was parched and our pond was shrinking quickly. Saturday morning, we finally got close to an inch of rain but Sunday night the heavens opened and we received 4.5 inches. Once again, I'm so thankful for God's provision.

This Thursday, we celebrate America's 249th birthday. Most everyone will have the day off to celebrate. The older I get the more sentimental I seem to be. I am SO proud to be an American. We are such a blessed country even though, at times, it doesn't seem so. All you have to do is Google any other country to see just what is happening there and you will realize how blessed we are. Yes, we, as Americans, are going through some difficult times, but it could always be so much worse.

We have become people of wants versus needs and being selfish versus helpful. America was built on Christian values (whether anyone believes that or not), integrity and hard work. God has provided this beautiful land that we live in and somehow we continue to place Him on the back burner. We must remember, that God provides the breath in our lungs for each day. When you think of how amazing that is, it is overwhelming but true. We seem to think that God is just there to reach out to when things are grim and times are tough. Yet, each morning when we awake, God has allowed that. What

an awesome God we serve. As time is drawing near, our faithful and loving God continues to wait for all to turn to him before he returns. That, my friends, is the most important decision you can make all week. To accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

America is also a place where we love our neighbors and we help others in need. Yes, I want things but I can honestly say, I don't need anything. I have worked all of my life and given my all. That's not a pat on the back to me, but to my parents who instilled great work ethics in my life. That also instilled in me, to love Jesus, be respectful of others, walk a life of integrity (not pride), and always give your best in every situation. Life can throw some curve balls when we least expect it, but I've learned to lean on God for direction in tough times. He will never steer you wrong. For me, there is nothing like a good day of work, even at my age. Whether it be at my job or at home. I love seeing the accomplishments of my efforts. It's just a great feeling. Sometimes it does drive Roger crazy but I remind him, that it's good therapy for me!

Whatever your plans may be for July 4th, have a great day and remember what a great country we live in. I know I will definitely be finding some patriotic music to listen to and of course, make sure to play the National Anthem. Every time I hear it, I still tear up. God Bless America...the land that I love!

Happy Birthday, America!

*Dawn S. West*

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# American Flag

the freedom, dignity, and true meaning of being an American. It has been with us through our war times, our sad times, but also in times of our greatest joys and triumphs. The flag went through many variations before becoming the flag we all know and love. In fact, it took from January 1, 1776 to August 21, 1960.

Our flag is an inspiring symbol that unites us all as American citizens. The unique history of the American flag follows the history of our country and reminds us of the triumphant beginning of the United States. The 13 stripes: a symbol of the first 13 colonies. The stars: a symbol of our country's 50 United States. As our country grew and developed, so did our flag. It has followed the fate of the country itself and, in the future, our flag may even change again.

*Continued from page 1*

The Red, White and Blue did not just happen by accident. The founding fathers wanted the colors to have meaning, not just look visually pleasing. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor; white symbolizes purity and innocence; and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Today, our flag remains a vibrant symbol of the American principles of democracy, justice, and freedom, and of course the everlasting memory of those who have sacrificed their lives defending these intrinsic principles of the United States of America.

In closing, remember this about our national emblem: "Our Flag does not fly because the wind moves it, it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."

# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

What can be said about last Thursday night's Presidential Debate that hasn't already been said? Also, what can be said about the disgusting cruel woman Jill Biden is! One question I do ponder is why? Why would the Biden regime place that man on stage with Donald Trump to debate their positions and foresight of the future of America. Biden's term as President has been nothing but a major train wreck. He has nothing to tout. As Trump and a very large portion of the people state, Biden is the worst President America has ever seen.

People who get their information from reliable sources knew the mental condition in which Biden has been in and have watched him digress rapidly, over the past three and a half years. The ones who receive their information from the liberal mainstream media have been coddled with lies and cover-ups, and possibly didn't realize how seriously ill the man is. Which leads me back to my question of why did they allow that man to make a mockery of himself in full view of the world? Perhaps they really thought Trump would not agree to their terms of the debate. If that's the case, Trump called their bluff and trumped them in their own game. Perhaps they thought that days and days of coaching Biden and juicing him up would suffice for 90 minutes. If the planned outcome for Biden was to be successful, it failed miserably. It only took 14 minutes for Biden to get the first minor brain freeze, then it was downhill from there. That 90-minute debate placed America in to more danger than any one event in our history.

Now what is going to happen? In full display, Biden confirmed he cannot fulfill the position of President and Commander-in-Chief of our military and our national security. The Democrat Party is split as to how to manage this upcoming election, now that the ill President has been exposed to

the entire world. Some want him removed from office via the 25th Amendment, others are still supporting him as of now. Obama encouraged him last Friday to remain the course, naturally, because Obama wants a fourth term! They (DNC) are in a true pickle. If Joe is removed, they are left with the cackling pantsuit lady which has a lower rating than Joe. Time is running out fast to find a solution.

Don't let your guard down. The Democrats are extremely devious and will attempt anything to remain in power. I personally would like to see Trump scale back on his public appearances out of safety concerns. The DNC got rid of JFK and it's not out of their realm to resort to drastic measures again. We who truly love America, have to flood the polls in November to make it impossible to cover up election fraud that we have seen in the past.

On a brighter note, let me tell you how wonderful it is to live in a "small town." The Town of Hilliard (Alicia Head) held a Patriotic Golf Cart Parade Saturday. People decorated their golf carts with all sorts of red white and blue, blow-up patriotic figurines, large American flags and more. As the parade made its route all through Hilliard, there were citizens along the route sitting in lawn chairs, vehicles, and on porches watching the large number of decorated carts pass by. Some carters were throwing out candy, snacks, beads and other items to the children. The route ended back at the Hilliard Town Hall Park where there were food trucks, corn hole playing and a live band. Like the old TV commercial, I looked over at Dawn and said, "You know, it just don't get any better than this!" God Bless America! Trump 2024!

As always...that just my opinion!

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Country Star Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of each month at The Anchor Church in Callahan at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

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

### In the Kitchen...

- 1 small head green cabbage, quartered
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon Montreal steak seasoning

### Smoked Cabbage

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup real bacon bits

Preheat a smoker to 250° according to manufacturer's directions. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Place cabbage wedges on prepared baking sheet. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil, steak seasoning, salt, and pepper until evenly combined. Brush mixture over the cabbage wedges. Place baking sheet on the grate of the preheated smoker and smoke for 1 1/2 hours. Transfer to a serving dish and top with bacon pieces. Serve immediately.

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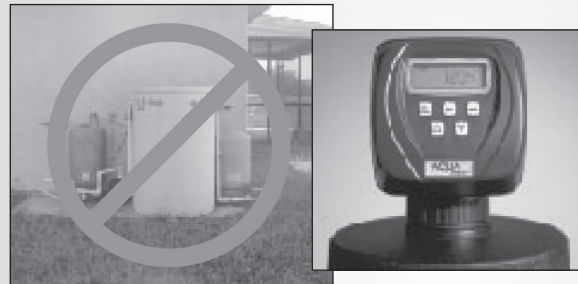
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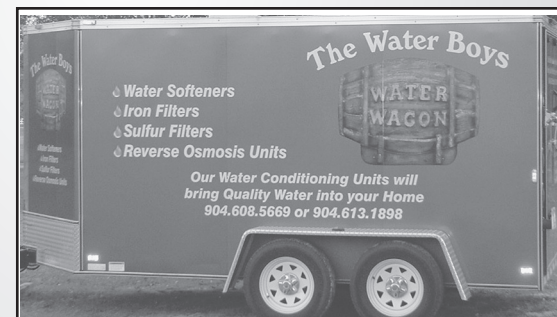
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# What Is Freedom?

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



This week, we will celebrate the Fourth of July. We celebrate our independence from England. We celebrate freedom. If you're like me, when you think of freedom, you think about the freedoms we have in this country; like free speech, freedom to bear arms, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures of property. It's great to be an American, but could freedom be bigger, mean more than this?

The Bible talks a great deal about freedom. Whenever I'm researching a topic, I always go first to the expert. In this case (and in every case) it is our Creator. Here is some of what God says about freedom:

Jesus tells us that God's truth sets us free: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32 ESV

He also said: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 ESV.

Paul tells us, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17 ESV The Holy Spirit lives in us and brings freedom.

Before we met Jesus, we were slaves to our own sin. After we meet Jesus, we are free. Paul warns us not to take this new found freedom and misuse it. "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1 ESV

For you were called to freedom, brothers. "Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13 ESV

Peter does as well: "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God." 1 Peter 2:16 ESV

God has provided us with freedom from our own mistakes, we must use this freedom to honor Him. If you see an area of your life that is not living in freedom, share it with Jesus. He desires to bring freedom to every area. "Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free." Psalm 118:5 ESV

## CHURCH NEWS

The Nassau County Women's Community Bible Study, an interdenominational study, will begin Thurs., Sept. 5 at 3:30 p.m., or 6 p.m. First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, Callahan. Call for more information, 904-715-0429 or 478-397-9533.

Sanctuary Baptist Church meets Sundays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Callahan County building, 45401 Mickler St. in Callahan. Come join us as we Worship Jesus.

# Live Oak Welcomes New Pastor



Live Oak Baptist Church, in Callahan, is excited to welcome Dr. David King as their new pastor this Sunday, July 7. Dr. King has recently been pastoring in Warner Robbins, Georgia. Dr. King and his wife Amber, have two children. Delany is a sophomore at the University of North Florida; and Aiden will be a sophomore at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School. The Kings are looking forward to this new opportunity to serve the Lord at Live Oak.

Live Oak Baptist Church is located at 36178 Congregation Lane (off Dyal Road) in Callahan. The church has been actively ministering at the same location for over 179 years. Live Oak service times are: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; and Wednesday, 7 p.m. Please join us this Sunday as we welcome the King family to our community!

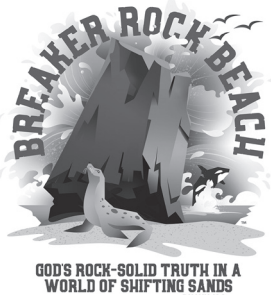
## Hadden Book Signing

This Saturday, July 6 at 11 a.m., Deanna Hadden will hold a book signing for her three published books. Deanna enjoys writing and sharing with all. Her books are: Cowboy Preacher Man; Myrtle Byrtle, the Purple Sea Monster; and Nanner Puddin, from the Heart. Proceeds from the book signing will go to a local family in need. Donations of all amounts are welcome!



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## Storage Units Can be a Waste of Money

There are occasions that I say, "Only in America." There are folks that have large homes that rent storage units to put some of their stuff in because all their stuff will not fit under their roof. They want to hold onto their stuff but do not consider the cost involved for holding onto their stuff.

Renting a storage unit can be expensive to maintain, while your stuff just sits there collecting dust. The average 10 x 15 storage unit in Jacksonville, costs \$200 a month. That is a whopping \$2,400 a year. If you use this unit for three years that would cost, you \$7,200. Should you rent a storage unit? To help you know the answer, you must first determine the value of your stuff and the length of time you would need storage. If you have a bedroom suit, washing machine and valuables that are worth \$4,800 and you were going to need a unit for more than two years then you might be better off selling your items now and re-purchasing needed items later.

You do not want to be the family that stores \$2,300 worth of stuff for six years for \$14,400. To me that is throwing money to the wind...but it happens often.

If you need a storage unit for 18 months, multiply the fee by 18 (months) to see the cost of rental. Then give your stuff a practical value to determine if your stuff is worth more than the rental



cost. If the value of your stuff is more than the rental cost, then it is usually wiser to rent for a while, as needed. For example, if you need a spot to store your belongings while building a new home (average home build is 12 months) then it might make sense to hold onto your stuff in storage.

For the record, I am not totally against using storage units. We had to rent a storage unit for one month when my son was in between apartments in college. In this instance, it was worth the value of having a safe space to keep his stuff.

To unlock the proverbial storage lock, if you do not know the end date for the use of the storage unit, then there is a good chance it would be financially wiser for you to sell your stuff and re-purchase later as needed.

*Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Solution Master Financial Coach. If you are in over your head in debt and need hope and help, contact her at Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com.*



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July 15-19 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | \$120 per camper | Ages 4-10

#### Tiny Dance, Hip-Hop, & Theatre Camp

Tiny Dance 5:30-6:00pm - \$65/wk  
 Mini/Petite Theatre & Hip-Hop 6:00-7:00pm - \$80/wk  
 Preteen Hip-Hop & Theatre 6:00-7:00pm - \$80/wk

July 29 - Aug 2 | 5:30pm-7:00pm | Ages 3-12

#### Tiny Dance, Acro, & Technique - Let's Dance!

Tiny Dance 5:30-6:00pm - \$65/wk  
 Mini/Petite Acro & Technique 6:00-7:00pm - \$80/wk  
 Preteen Technique & Acro 6:00-7:00pm - \$80/wk

Aug 12-16 | 5:30pm-7:00pm | Ages 3-12

**Contact Ashley: 904.881.1983 - Sibling & Multi-Camp Discounts! More info on the Callahan Dance Academy Facebook Events Page.**

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 lb. Can CLAW CRAB MEAT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$10<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ While Supplies Last Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OYSTERS!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$75 50 LB. BUSHEL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$40 1/2 BUSHEL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$25 PARTY BAG</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ WE HAVE PINTS With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USDA Whole T-BONES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$6<sup>95</sup> lb.</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ Cut the way you like! Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEG QUARTERS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$7<sup>95</sup> 10 lb. Bag</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 lb. Bag FRYER DRUMSTICKS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$7<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ Limit 2 With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEATY BEEF NECKBONES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$2 lb.</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lee's Smoked SLAB BACON</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$4<sup>99</sup> lb.</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ Sliced the way you like it! WHOLE OR HALF With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BREADED POPCORN SHRIMP</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8 OZ. BAG \$1<sup>00</sup></b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 lb. Tube 81/19 GROUND BEEF</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$34<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15 lb. Case OX TAILS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$112</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Expires 7-9-24 WJ Cut the way you like! While Supplies Last, With this Coupon</p>

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## Naturally Nassau

### Our Voting Voices

Nancy Lee Bethea

This fictional column features an inside look into the lives of John and Bethany McNair, a couple who live and work in Nassau County. The McNairs have three children, John Jr., 19, Brianna, 15, and Jacob, 5. Mr. McNair is a transplant from Chicago, Illinois, who teaches art. Mrs. McNair is a Nassau County native who works as a forester and has deep roots here.



John and Junior researched all 15 active political parties available in Florida.

They learned about the Ecology Party, the Florida Forward Party, and the No Labels Party, along with the better-known parties... the Democrats and the Republicans.

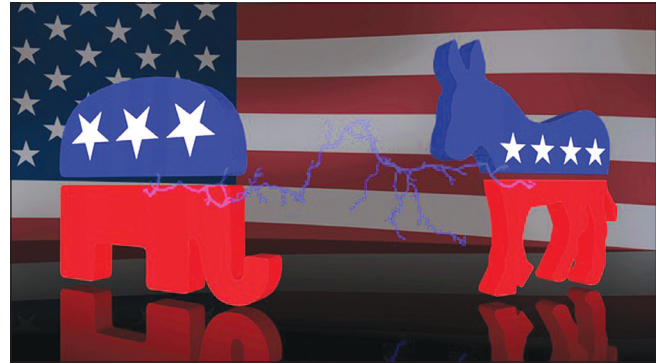
After weighing the pros and cons of each party for himself, Junior decided to register as NPA—No Party

Affiliation. "There are just too many choices!" he said afterward.

John and I know an election is coming up in August. We've even met some of the candidates. We decided to keep all the flyers and political mailings this election cycle instead of tossing them. We figured we could discuss the candidates, their qualifications, and model making informed voting decisions for our family. Meanwhile, Junior has enjoyed his American Government class so far. We've had some interesting dinner conversations lately, discussing lots of hot-button issues. One night, we invited his instructor over. She and I reminisced about our high school days!

It's been nice for John and me to hear our eldest share his voice in an informed and confident way on the wisdom of our founding fathers, the depth and breadth of our Constitution, and how our form of government is unlike any other in the world and needs protection. Junior will vote for the first time in the Primary Election this August. We feel confident he will make wise choices as he exercises his right to vote. Until next time, we will be loving our summer and keeping up with politics while we live our Naturally Nassau life.

Nancy Lee Bethea is a local writer who leads the Creative Writing Department at LaVilla Middle School of the Arts in Jacksonville. She is married to Stan Bethea and they live in Callahan with their teenage daughter and their rescue cat.



Whew, summer is finally here. So thankful our kids have finished another year of school and we can slow down a little...maybe. Looks like Jacob will be attending camp soon, Brianna has a job as a lifeguard at the Y, and John Jr., is home for the summer working and taking classes.

Speaking of John Jr., he registered to take an American Government class over the summer from the local community college. He says the more classes he takes over the summer, the sooner he can graduate from college. Why anyone would want to rush through their youth and toward adulthood is beyond us. But sometimes, ignorance is bliss. In talking with Junior, I realized I know his instructor. She is a friend from my high school days and very involved in the political process.

Trying to be helpful, John and I read through the list of class prerequisites with our eldest son. All students must have read the Constitution of the United States, The Declaration of Independence, The Bill of Rights, the first five Federalist Papers, and know all 27 Constitutional Amendments, which Junior had done in high school. But there was one prerequisite he had not met, and that was registering to vote.

Junior proceeded to complete the online voter registration application, which he couldn't believe was so easy. He didn't fully understand the differences between all the political parties, though, and neither did we. So,



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## 4-H Summer Camp Fun!

The Food Challenge Camp, campers began their morning with an interactive lesson on food safety essentials, knife skills, and meat temperatures, followed by a hands-on experience making hamburger egg rolls. After lunch, they worked as a team to create a colorful fruit salad accompanied by a fruit dip and presented a short presentation on their dish!

Archery day camp was right on target! It was a hot day, but so worth it!



## Westside Journal Visits New York!

Recently, friends Alyson McCullough and Jessie Pickett visited New York City with their daughters, Peighton McCullough and Abigail Pickett to celebrate birthdays!

While there, they visited Trump Tower with their Westside Journal. They also visited Ground Zero, the 9-11 Museum, The Edge, Central Park, walked across the Brooklyn Bridge, ate lots of great food, and of course, visited Times Square.

## Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

Another free genealogy website for you to check out is: [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com). This is the most comprehensive list of links to genealogical sites on the internet. The West Nassau Genealogical Society is taking a break from the summer heat. Our next meeting will be September 9, 2024.



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**55494 Yellow Jacket Drive • Callahan**



Welcome to Spring Lake Estates! This beautiful brick 4BR/2BR home boasts 1974sf of living space, all nestled on a generous acre of land. Open floor plan, features split bedrooms and a separate dining area, perfect for both everyday living and entertaining guests. The kitchen has quartz countertops and stainless-steel appliances. Master bedroom has tray ceilings and bathroom features double vanity sinks, a separate bathtub, and a walk-in shower.

**6730 Bowie Road • Jacksonville**

Welcome to your slice of country. This home is on 1.79 acres, 2BR/1BA offers 1440sf of living space in a serene setting. Beautiful oaks and vibrant azaleas, the yard is a true delight. While the home could benefit from some updating, its key features, including a 2010 metal roof, a 4-year-old AC unit, a 2-year-old water heater, and updated plumbing and electrical systems, ensure comfort and reliability. Sold AS IS, NO HOA or CDD fees.



### Vacant Land for Sale:

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**615583 River Road Callahan**

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# Four Arrested for High-End Food and Stanley Cup Heist

On Saturday, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office responded to a theft at the Hagan Ace Hardware Store on Miner Road in Yulee. Store personnel reported that four suspects entered the premises and stole 24 Stanley cups, concealing them in their shirts and bags before fleeing in a silver Chevy Malibu.

An off-duty lieutenant, hearing a BOLO (Be On the Lookout) alert over the radio, spotted the suspects' vehicle at the intersection of Arrigo Boulevard and State Road 200. The vehicle was subsequently stopped in the Winn-Dixie parking lot, where all four suspects were detained.

Further investigation revealed that the group had targeted multiple locations across Nassau County, including two Winn-Dixie stores in Yulee and Callahan, as well as two Ace Hardware stores. The total value of stolen merchandise is estimated at around \$5,000. "This case demonstrates the importance of vigilance and quick action. Our off-duty lieutenant's attentiveness led to the swift apprehension of these suspects, potentially preventing further thefts. We remain committed to protecting our local businesses and community from such criminal activities," said Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper.

During the search of the suspects' vehicle, deputies discovered several Stanley cups and a variety of high-end



Kaneki Hickson Montavia Sullivan



Stacey Sullivan Tracy Sullivan

food items from Winn-Dixie, including crab meat, lobster tail, bacon, steak, and an assortment of champagne.

The following individuals were arrested and charged with felony grand theft and conspiracy to commit retail theft: Stacey Sullivan, 46; Kaneki Hickson, 51; Montavia Sullivan, 23; and Tracy Sullivan, 46. "It's clear these criminals had expensive taste, targeting luxury food items and popular merchandise across multiple stores in our county, however, I can assure you that champagne and lobster are not on the menu at Hotel Nassau County Jail," continued Sheriff Leeper.

All four suspects have been booked into the Nassau County Jail.

## 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, June 25

Thomas Pete Holton, 53, Callahan: Driving an Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Possession of Methamphetamine

### Friday, June 28

Roosevelt Sylvester Nelson, Jr., 40, Callahan: Violation of Probation Community Control

James Harvey Smith, III, 70, Callahan: Trespass on Real Property

### Saturday, June 29

Jared Tyler Alderman, 20, Callahan: Out of State Warrant; Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams


Jasmine Chanelle Muhammad, 33, Hilliard: Battery on a Person Older than 65

### Sunday, June 30

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

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# Ladson Announces Candidacy for Commission Seat District 5

I am John "Paul" Ladson and I am seeking the District 5 County Commissioner seat to represent Callahan and all of Nassau County.



My family has lived in Callahan since 1970. My father was the Mayor and a Municipal Judge for many years. My mother worked at the Callahan Post Office until her retirement.

My family was raised here. Now my grandchildren, and great-granddaughter, still call Callahan home.

I have worn several different hats over the years. I was an automobile truck driver for many years. I did not like being away from home for lengthy periods, so I changed jobs. I then worked for Winn Dixie as a driver and dispatcher for around 15 years, until the company filed for bankruptcy. I then went back to the automobile transportation business temporarily. Then on to a major Automotive Auction as the reconditioning manager. In this position, I managed the mechanic department, paint & body shop and detail department. During this time, I traveled to many of the 55 company owned auctions. I helped with problem solving, implementing new work methods along with setting a bonus program in place for the employees. I retired in 2010.

I am now seeking the seat of Nassau County Commissioner for District 5. If elected, I will be your full-time commissioner.

I would like residents to have a place where you, the property owners, taxpayers, small business owners and residents of the west side of Nassau County, can go to for complaints or have face to face discussions with your commissioner. I also would like to have meetings held close by. I think a Satellite Office would be that solution.

Let me be your voice, as your opinion is important. You now must drive to Yulee for the Commission meetings. The meeting time used to be 6 p.m. but now it has changed to 5 p.m. That time does not work for the family that is not home from work yet. I want to help you fight against the high impact fees that are charged to our long-time property and homeowners. If we own a home and decide to sell for whatever reason, why do we the property owners and taxpayers have to pay impact fees if we build another home? I cannot promise anything except...I will be your voice.

Let us make the Taxpayers great again! Please consider me, John "Paul" Ladson, when you Vote on August 20, 2024.

# OBITUARIES

## WAYNE PHILIP CREWS, SR.



Wayne Philip Crews, Sr., 70, of Yulee, affectionally known as "Woody," passed away June 25, 2024, at his home with his loving family by his side. He was born July 17, 1953 in Callahan, to the late Fuller Warren Crews, Sr. and Gladys V. Clark Crews. Woody grew up in Jacksonville and graduated from Ribault High in 1971. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for 2 years. Woody worked in the construction field most of his life and recently retired from Stellar on December 31, 2023.

He enjoyed watching college football, especially the Florida Gators, playing and watching the game of golf, and riding his Honda Gold Wing and Harley motorcycles. Woody also enjoyed deer hunting and traveled to several states doing so, but his favorite hunting ground was The Farm in Georgia. He was preceded in death by his grandparents William and Myrtle Crews and Rufus and Pearl Clark; beautiful daughter Prudence Ann Crews; and brother-in-law Larry Hamby.

Woody is survived by his wife of 44 years, Gloria Jean "Jeanie" Crews; sons Wayne (Stephanie) Crews, Jr. and Shawn (Melissa) Crews; grandchildren Thorne Bishop Crews, Olivia Gracelyn Crews and Papa's little boy Rex Warren Crews; brother Fuller "Bully" Crews; and sister Pat Hamby.

Pallbearers were Tommy Clark, Donnie Wynn, John Rupe, John Moody, Mike Polczynski and Andrey Tarver.

A celebration of Woody's life was held Tuesday, July 2 at Callahan First Baptist Church with Pastor Cliff Ryan officiating. Interment followed at Verdie Cemetery. The family received friends Monday, July 1 at Nassau Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please make donations, in Woody's honor to: Community Hospice & Palliative Care, [www.communityhospice.com](http://www.communityhospice.com).

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

## ROLAND BROOKS SELLERS, JR.



Roland Brooks Sellers, Jr., 80, of Callahan, passed away peacefully June 28, 2024, at Community Hospice Jane and Bill Warner Center for

Caring in Fernandina Beach. He was born May 16, 1944, in Jacksonville, to the late Roland Brooks Sellers, Sr. and Jane Mozell Terrell Sellers. Roland retired from Parker & Mick Welding as a welder. He took pride in his work and always made sure the job was done right. Roland had a passion for the outdoors; whether it be in the woods hunting or out on the water fishing. More than anything, Roland loved to spend time with his family who he loved dearly. He always looked forward to the holidays knowing that, as he would say, "the kids were coming home." Roland will be sorely missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; and bonus son Joseph Franklin Mims.

Roland is survived by his son Roland Brooks Sellers, III; daughter Jana (Timothy) Marie Maddox; wife Margaret Pauline Mims; bonus sons Jerry Franklin Mims and Junior Franklin Mims; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Anthony Maddox, Roland Sellers, III, Wiley Steele, Sr., Wiley Steele, Jr., Timothy Maddox and Jerry Mims.

A celebration of Roland's life will be held Friday, July 5 at 12 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Todd Carr officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

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

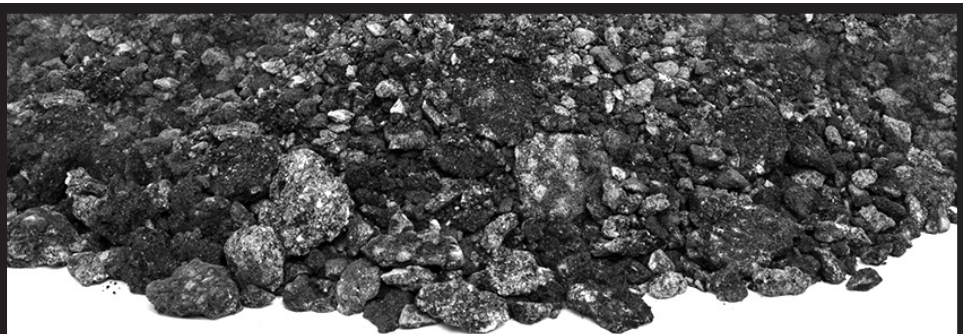
Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.



*In Loving Memory of  
Bernice Frith Dettore*  
July 9, 1922 – August 29, 2007

Happy birthday in Heaven, Mama. If roses grow in Heaven, Lord please pick a bunch for us. Place them in our mother's arms and tell her we love her, that they came from us.

Your loving children,  
Charlotte, Fred, Sandy and Diane



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## TOWN OF HILLIARD NOTICE OF ELECTION HILLIARD TOWN COUNCIL 3 COUNCIL SEATS CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES

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

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

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

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

# When Did You Stop Doing Your Job?

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

I've had people work for me that didn't want to work. They either just did what they wanted to do, or failed to perform their job description. After a sufficient time, in order to inquire into what might be the problem and failing to have a satisfactory explanation, their employment was terminated with no recourse.

So, I'll present it to you, as I am currently under the impression that a current employee is not only performing less than satisfactory work, but they are lying about it and just plain failing to accomplish their job. They are spending money we don't have and using travel expenses and accommodations as personal time for himself and his family. Recently, we sent him to a conference in Europe, where he was supposed to work with our partners and resolve economic concerns. He took his whole family, and then decided to skip out on a priority dinner/meeting. All the time he was meeting with a third party, not even associated with the conference, and wrote a check (that was not authorized) and presented it to him with our/my apologies for taking so long to get it to him. Then, continuing to ignore the business at hand, flew home for a meeting of his own personal interest and submitted the travel voucher for re-imbusement.

At the same time, he sent his assistant to a major conference to accomplish the job he is supposed to be doing. An assistant that is completely unqualified to do the job he is charged with, let alone having the ability to be a suitable assistant. To top it off, that assistant ignored the charge of that conference and once again gave away another bunch of money, which we don't have, to prop up a non-participant to that conference. Well, I/We have had nearly three years to evaluate this dismal performance and the manner in which he ignores his responsibilities, and have come to a conclusion. It is time to "Fire" this employee, clean out his department and begin anew, before our reputation and trust is completely destroyed.

President Biden, you have failed to accomplish your job in accordance with your job description. You attended the

G-7 Conference, and failed to participate in portions of that conference because "you were tired." But you weren't too tired to provide a vacation for your entire family! You met with a non-participant and gave away another check, so he could protect his borders, while yet failing to protect your own borders. You then left early to impress all those Hollywood Contributors, and failed to participate in a "Peace Conference" in Switzerland, to which you sent the most incapable abilities of the Vice-President (Kamala "Giggles" Harris) where she also gave away another billion (plus) to a non-participant to protect their borders. This from our own Border Czar, which has failed to do anything about our borders.

Then, on that same subject, you issued an Executive order that shadowed a bill, which failed to clear the congress, to demonstrate your own imagined seriousness about border security. An order that you are not enforcing and does nothing but legitimize the current conditions that I/We find abhorrent to our security. Now we are informed, by your own Homeland Security, that we are at the highest level of terrorism threats since 9/11/2001. We also find that our fleet in the Red Sea is battling attacks that "Cannot Be Sustained," according to news reports. Not only is our Homeland Security in jeopardy, but the safety and welfare of our own citizens is being destroyed, by criminals that are having their way with our communities because you cannot protect this nation and our safety.

Mr. President, you do not work for the DNC, the Hollywood Elites, the "Illegal Aliens," HAMAS, Hezbollah, the Russians, the North Koreans, the NGOs or the criminals, that are wantonly attacking our people, interests and properties. YOU WORK FOR ME and ALL Americans. Very shortly your employment will be terminated. My only regret is that you cannot be cut loose from my purse strings for the rest of your life, but you can be removed from my conscience for having permitted the circumstances that gave you the chance to destroy my "Company's" (Country's) reputation and admiration.

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# New Beginnings and Milestones

*Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
Kyler Luke Vandever*

Kyler Luke Vandever will celebrate his first birthday July 7. Kyler will celebrate his special milestone with a 'The Big One' fireworks/patriotic themed party held in his honor with his siblings Khloe and Kelley and lots of friends and family joining in the fun! His proud parents are Steven and Ashley Vandever of Callahan.

Proud grandparents are Steve and Julie Vandever of Jacksonville; and Gordon and Karen Nelson, also of Jacksonville.



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