

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL? SCHEDULES ON PAGES 8-9

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

GET OUT THERE AND VOTE! ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 7 A.M. - 7 P.M.

VOLUME XXI ISSUE 2 HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

"BUT THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES; THEY SHALL RUN, AND NOT BE WEARY; AND THEY SHALL WALK, AND NOT FAINT." - ISAIAH 40:31

St. Marys River Sturgeon Research and Filming in West Nassau County

St. Marys Riverkeeper hosted a team of researchers in mid-July for ground truthing in search of sturgeon spawning grounds, including locations in West Nassau County. This research will be featured in a short documentary "sneak peek" by filmmaker Jennifer Brown from Into Nature Films, focused on the mystery of endangered sturgeon in the St. Marys River. The short film will feature footage from Nassau and Baker Counties in Florida, as well as Charlton and Camden Counties in Georgia and will raise awareness about why sturgeon research is important, as well as exploring some key mysteries. Through stunning visuals and compelling interviews, it will showcase the relationship between sturgeon, locals in the river ecosystem



and dedicated conservationists working tirelessly to learn more about this ancient species.

The premiere will take place at St. Marys Riverkeeper's annual "Toast to Clean Water" event, on October 19, 2024 at Sugar Pointe Estate in Yulee.

About Sturgeon Sampling Season:

The 2024 St. Marys River sturgeon sampling season began April 29, 2024 when St. Marys Riverkeeper hosted researchers to sample the local population of Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon. This collaboration is part of a long-term monitoring program aimed at determining the distribution,

abundance, and population dynamics of these endangered species.

The season was scheduled to last eight weeks but due to unusually high-water temperatures, June 12, 2024 marked the last day of sturgeon sampling on the river. The high-water temperatures meant capturing sturgeon (or any fish) could lead to unintentional deaths.

Ground truthing is a critical process in conservation biology that ensures data collected through remote sensing and other indirect methods accurately represent on-the-ground conditions. The field investigations help validate and refine understanding of sturgeon habitats, which is essential for effective conservation efforts. Executive Director/Riverkeeper Emily Floore leads this multi-agency team that researches Atlantic sturgeon in their southern-most river habitat. Research partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Peninsular Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, and

Adam Fox, PhD, Fish Scientist at UGA Warnell School, as well as Fish and Aquatic Conservation Headquarters, Georgia Ecological Services Field Office and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

St. Marys Riverkeeper creates a vibrant St. Marys River ecosystem that nurtures communities, sustains biodiversity and fosters sustainable economic development, anchored in pride for the area's natural beauty. Communities along the Florida-Georgia border, from Oke to Ocean, are united in conserving our waterway today and for future generations, ensuring it remains a leading example of ecological integrity, shared stewardship, and enduring appreciation.

Photo credit: Jennifer Brown, Into Nature Films



Quick Thinking Detective Foils CVS Theft Ring

Alicia Tarancon, NCSO PIO

A quick trip for headache medication, led to an arrest for one of our Nassau County Sheriff's Office detectives. On Tuesday afternoon, July 30, 2024, our detective stumbled upon a group of suspects involved in a coordinated theft at the CVS Pharmacy on US Highway 1 in Callahan.

The detective noticed suspicious activity when four individuals parked their Nissan Altima in a position primed for a quick getaway. Observing one suspect enter the store with an empty bag, the detective followed the group



Tieranie Daniels



Tide Hayward



Eurando Jones



Carlese Mitchell

inside.

Our detective then noticed these four suspects congregating around the diabetic test strip aisle, where three of them were seen concealing merchandise

before all four exited the store. Acting swiftly, the detective intercepted the group in the parking lot, after they entered the vehicle by blocking their vehicle with his unmarked car and

identifying himself as law enforcement.

Two suspects, identified as Tide Hayward, 27, and Eurando Jones, 41, initially refused to comply with orders to show him their hands. Their movements towards the floorboard prompted the detective to draw his firearm as a precautionary measure until backup arrived. Upon the arrival of additional deputies, all four suspects were taken into custody without further incident. The other two suspects were identified as Tieranie Daniels, 28, and Carlese Mitchell, 29. All four

See 'Quick Thinking' on page 3

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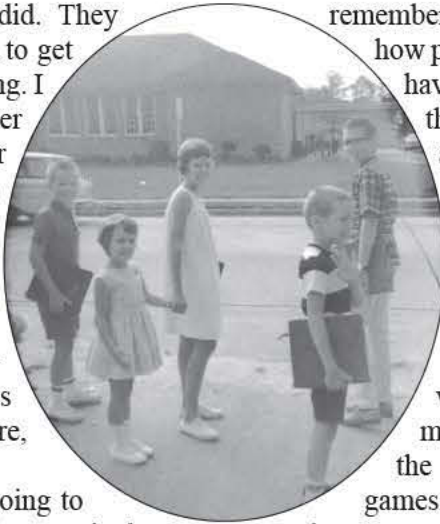


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A Word From the Publisher

How did we get to the middle of August so fast? This year continues to fly by. Well, this week we celebrated our children (and grandchildren) going back to school. I got to see pictures of some pretty happy faces, for the most part. I'm sure there were a few little ones crying. Mine never did. They seemed pretty excited to get this 'school thing' going. I can certainly remember other children in their kindergarten classes that were really crying hard. I know Mrs. Carter asked me many times to go ahead and leave, they are fine. I think I was shocked but they were, thankfully!

I well remember going to kindergarten. I was super excited as I was the baby of five. For at least four years I had watched everyone else get to go to school but me. I just kept thinking this must be pretty good. Back in the day, we lived directly across from the school (Callahan Elementary now). Our house has long been torn down



however it was a pretty cool place to live. The school, Callahan High School (at the time) housed Kindergarten through 12th grade. Kind of crazy to think of that, right? Obviously, I didn't have to get up early, as we just walked across the road to school. I don't really remember but I can just imagine how packed that school must have been. My dad was the coach of the football and I think baseball teams so I got to know everyone pretty fast, or I thought I did. Somehow Mom was voted the cheerleading sponsor, which in the day, just meant she would drive the cheerleaders to the games. From that experience, because I was young, I got to be the mascot. It's funny how many people around still remember that. It was a lot of fun as my uniform was just like the cheerleaders.

I think when I was going into the 7th grade, that's when integration happened. Pine Forest School was

turned into Callahan Junior High (7th - 9th grades); and West Nassau was built and opened. Geez I'm getting old!! Junior High was a whole different game. It seemed the homework and learning was at a much faster pace. I loved my junior high years and wish the schools would go back to that. I'm not keen on having 9th graders at the high school but...

When I think of school now, it's a whole different ballgame. We didn't have the influence of cell phones or the internet. When studying you were looking things up in the encyclopedia. We had a full set at our house forever. And I assure you, they were studied. I know my brother Mark wore the pages out as he couldn't seem to get enough knowledge. That boy was so smart! Back in the day, in junior high, I was a cheerleader and Miss Rose Wright (later Way) was our sponsor. First of all, our moms or someone handmade our uniforms. You don't see that now. I think they were pretty cute! When we went to ballgames, we all rode on the same bus with the team. I know today that's certainly not heard of. The girls were up front, the players in the

back. And you know, we never had any problems. Of course, with Miss Wright that was understandable. See didn't play, much.

Times have changed so much. I pray for all of our students and teachers this year. School is tough and teaching is tough! They have to help each other. My prayer is that we, as parents (and grandparents) have taught our children respect of each other. That means, respect your friends and classmates and respect your teachers. I still have respect for the teachers that were in my life. If I ever talked back or acted bad, and my parents knew...for me it was horrible. There is nothing worse than disappointing my parents.

Let's all do our part by praying for these children and teachers! God is the greatest teacher of all and remember without Him, we have nothing. Let's join together and lift up prayers for a great school year and a safety hedge over all our schools to protect our children!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

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BEFORE **AFTER**

Quick Thinking

individuals, residents of Jacksonville, have been charged with Felony Retail Theft. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed stolen CVS blood glucose test strips valued at \$1,617.27.

Sheriff Bill Leeper praised the detective's actions, stating, "This

Continued from page 1

incident highlights the importance of remaining vigilant, even while running a quick errand...like getting some aspirin, for example. Our detective's quick thinking and bravery potentially prevented further criminal activity and kept our community safe."

Boy Scouts Organize Cleanup

Callahan Boy Scout Troop 351 braved the heat and spent Saturday morning in community service for their Keep Nassau Beautiful Adopt A Road section along Warrior Drive and Brown Street. Fifteen scouts participated in the cleanup removing litter and debris. The members removed 25 pounds of litter and debris from the area.



Keep Nassau Beautiful, Inc. is working to inspire, educate, and equip individuals, groups, businesses and governments to take action to make Nassau County a place where residents, visitors and wildlife can thrive and experience the beauty of Nassau County. To get involved, visit: www.KeepNassauBeautiful.org.

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will meet Mon., August 19 at 7 p.m. at the Pig Barbeque restaurant in Callahan. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month. If you are interested in the history 1861-1865 you are invited to attend.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. PAL provides hope through education and support to parents of addicted loved ones. Visit: www.palgroup.org to learn more. Free educational support group for parents and families.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Writing all the things that are wrong within the Democrat Party may be too overwhelming for me over the next two and a half months. Why can't people see that our Republic is just about gone. Once it's gone it will never return. Take a good look at Cuba, Venezuela even Mexico, it's not a pretty sight to see and even worse to live in. There is no where for us to flee to. This Harris/Walz presidential team is so much more dangerous than even Biden's stint as the President. The truth of the matter is, take Biden, AOC and the squad, Bernie Sanders, Pelosi, Nader, Schumer and mix them all together then feed them a super pill and it might be close to the Marxist duo of Harris/Walz.

I'm telling you, these two lie more than Biden. Kamala is not "black," anyone that believes that must also believe in fairy dust. Kamala's father was born in Jamaica and her mother was born in Southern India. Her parents are listed on her birth certificate as the mother being Caucasian and her father as Jamaican. In 2016, the Associated Press headline read, "California's Kamala Harris becomes first Indian-American US senator." Then in 2020, the Associated Press headline was, "Biden picks Kamala Harris as running mate, first Black woman." I guess in today's world if a man can become a woman overnight, then she can become black overnight, same difference.

We are supposed to play along with their fantasy zone. Her views are not consistent with America's core values. She has a history of comparing DHS to racists, including equating ICE officers to the KKK. She stated on a TV interview that "we need to stay woke; everybody needs to be woke." She brags about working behind

the scenes to get sex change surgeries for trans inmates. The latest lies were created by AI, a picture showing Kamala exiting Air Force Two and waving at hundreds and hundreds of supporters. The problem with the AI generated photo is the reflection on the side of the plane shows an empty concrete tarmac. For the record, she is the most dangerous presidential candidate America has ever had.

Then there's Tim Walz, equally as dangerous as Kamala. A professed Marxist who genuinely despises law enforcement, supports late term abortions, lied about his military life, signed a bill in 2023 as governor in Minnesota that allows the state to make custody determinations if a child is denied access to sex-change procedures by their parents. On the military stain, Walz was a reservist whose group was being deployed overseas to a war zone. One month before their deployment, Walz retired suddenly. He also was reduced in rank due to his withdrawal. But he has had the nerve to say he carried a weapon in a war zone. He has accepted gratitude from Congress for his time serving in a war zone that he never was in. That's a throat-punch to every service person that has ever served our nation! There are just too many obscene things about these two. It would consume hours and hours to list all the reasons that they should never be elected as the leaders of the (somewhat) free world. Also, remember, the ones that were telling us all that Biden was sharp as a tack are the same ones telling you Kamala is better than sliced bread. If the lame stream media opens their mouths, they are lying!

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



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The Greatest Textbook for School

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



The return to school marks the end of summer, although you cannot tell by the temperatures! As a child, I remember the excitement that came with starting a new school year. New grade, new kids, new clothes, new teachers, and new school supplies. I must admit that “school,” the actual work in class, was never the highlight for me, but everything that surrounded it was fun and exciting.

Like many things in America, we have an abundance of choices when it comes to school. You have to decide where you will send your child. There are public schools, charter schools, prep schools, boarding schools, military schools, Christian schools, private schools and homeschool. We even have a movement today toward “unschooling.”

I believe that who your child becomes is not based on the type of school that you choose as how much time you spend raising them at home. School has always intended to be a vessel that comes alongside parents to assist in their education and not raising them to “be” something. The raising should be done by the parents at home and not the teachers in the classroom. Somehow, we have lost sight of both and from both parties involved. The teacher’s job is not to indoctrinate our children, but to teach the necessary and basic skills of writing and arithmetic. However, it is the parents job to teach children at home how to be decent human beings and become functioning citizens of society. When the teacher or parent fails to do their part, we have the other filling the void which brings unnecessary conflict at the parent teacher conferences.

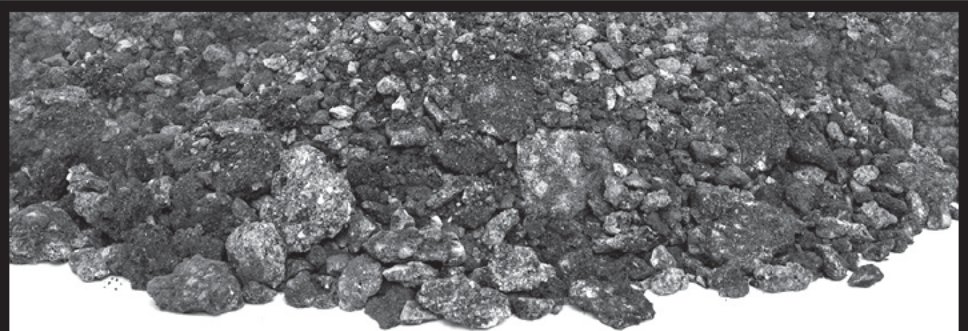
I am grateful for every teacher and those that work tirelessly to support that classroom, such as school board members and support staff. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that the best “teacher,” the best “support staff” and the best “school board” for each child is the parent.

I write this with one encouragement in mind. As you work to gather the supplies needed for this new and exciting school year, do not forget to provide the most important book your child can carry with them to school...a Bible. In 1962 and 1963, there were two landmark decisions made in our country that removed the Bible from schools. I certainly support a decision that does not allow the state to force beliefs on children (I wish that was true and consistent with all of the states’ agendas). However, this is a decision of the parent and child. And the school will never provide a book better equipped to teach your child how to be a decent human being and a functioning citizen than the Bible. It is the textbook for life and for a lifetime.

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church, located across from Hilliard Town Hall, will be selling Barbecue Dinners Friday, August 16 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each.

Women’s Community Bible Study starts 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.



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Clerk’s Office Announces the Launch of Open Finance

The Nassau County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is excited to announce the launch of Open Finance, an online tool providing easy access to Nassau County’s financial information. The public can access this new portal on the Clerk’s website at www.nassauclerk.com. The launch of this online tool reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency and fiscal accountability.

Open Finance, hosted by Tyler Technologies, is designed to allow citizens to look at the County’s books. Navigating through detailed financial information, such as total expenditures or individual invoice payments, is only a click away. Highly interactive charts, graphs, and tables allow users to view the types of revenues the County collects and how public funds are spent.

Through Open Finance, we provide:

- **Regular Updates:** The platform is updated at the end of each business week, ensuring users can access the most recent financial data.
- **Comparative Data:** Users can explore financial data spanning three prior fiscal years, allowing for meaningful comparisons and trend analysis.
- **Comprehensive Information:** The platform includes detailed information on expenditures, revenue sources, vendor payments, and department-level payroll records.
- **Current Year Data:** Financial information for the current year is presented on an unaudited cash basis, providing real-time insights into the County’s financial health.

Mitch Keiter, the Clerk’s Chief of Staff and Operations, expressed his enthusiasm for the platform: “Open Finance is a significant step in our ongoing efforts to provide transparency and accountability to our citizens. This tool is another example of how we leverage technology to improve our services. Full transparency allows users to gain valuable insights into the County’s finances, helping to protect and preserve your trust in us.”



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The Nation Has Been Unified!

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

It was by his own words, when he described how he wanted to “Unify” the nation, during his inaugural address on January 20, 2021. Over the three and a half years of his administration he has done exactly that. He unified the House of Representatives into a bi-partisan calling for his ouster. He unified the United States Senate into a bi-partisan calling for his ouster. He unified the voters, to encourage his ousters. Now, after continued refusal to buckle under the pressure, he made a decision (overnight) to withdraw from the election process. (Likely, the quickest and most responsible decision he has made in over 50 years.)

It has been his contention that his way forward was to prevent the downfall of our constitutional government. Now, with his withdrawal, he has done exactly that. Secured the demise of the open and free election process. No one has cast a single vote to elect the Vice-President as the nominee. (Now or ever!) A Vice-President that has angrily, in the past, described the Commander-in-Chief as a racist and being out of touch with the American People. Now he endorsed (coronated) this “socialist”, with the Democratic National Committee’s approval, as their nominee to run for president. In 2020, this Vice-President could not garner a single vote and quickly withdrew from the race, after their first debates. Now, she has nothing but glowing accolades to describe his failed administration. “He has done more in his three and a half years than any other President in 8 years, in the history of the nation.”

I agree! He has destroyed the economy, where banks are now bracing themselves expecting people to stop paying off their credit card debt. He has destroyed the American Dream, causing the “New Middle Class” (formerly known as the poor) to be unable to purchase homes and lifestyles that, just a half-decade ago, was not only possible but easily accessible. He has destroyed the military, with all

the social initiatives, who are seeing their ability to recruit fall very short of goals. Only one outcome from that will be realized. A Department of Defense that won’t even be able to defend their own offices, let alone the nation.

He has completely destroyed the Department of Homeland Security, which was established after the World Trade Center Towers attack, by failing to secure the borders. He can’t provide an effective Secret Service, which is not handcuffed by ignorant Executive Orders and giving the impression around the world that the United States is a weak and ineffective state that can no longer have any bearing on the workings of World Leadership. 11.5 million Illegal immigrants have crossed our borders, unchecked. Remember, it only took 19 people to bring down the World Trade Center Towers, and they entered the country legally.

The primary misnomer of all this is that the government is responsible for personal debt (not the individual) and that the D.E.I. initiative has replaced the word “qualified” when it comes down to placing people in positions that are commensurate with their abilities and future potentials. First, and foremost, was our President’s selection for Vice-President. It was the primo definition of D.E.I. versus qualifications.

So, the question has come down to this. Do we select a person that has won primary after primary and legitimately secured their party’s nomination, or do we select a person that no one has voted for or even perceived to be qualified? Someone with experience and know-how, or someone who is ignorant and un-respected. Do we continue to be a constitutional republic, or do we succumb to someone who has been appointed to be a choice and let their own version of “The U.S. Kremlin” continue to dictate the way we live? Me? I’m voting to continue my ability to pursue life, liberty and happiness!

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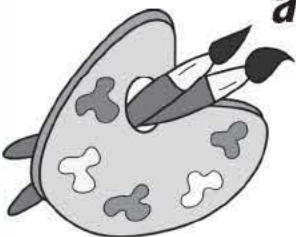
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Letters to the Editor



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.

Election Integrity

Dear Editor,

Election Integrity is very important to Floridians. In Nassau County, elections are run accurately and professionally with respect to the voter. However, down state, irregularities in voting have been recognized and documented and questions regarding the accuracy of vote counts still linger and go unanswered. For the security and accuracy of the vote, Floridians need to return to paper ballots.

Following the State of Virginia's Governor Glenn Youngkin's lead, our Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, by special executive order, should return Florida to paper ballots in the November 2024 election.

In addition, he should challenge other states, especially the states of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc., all with noted election irregularities, to also return to paper ballots to ensure a fair count of votes in their states. Without changes in other states, we will be doomed to repeat the 'stolen' election debate over and over again.

This would be an important first step to returning to honest and fair elections in the United States. Please email Governor DeSantis and ask him to act quickly for paper ballots, to ensure election integrity for Florida and to challenge all other Governor's to do the same.

Paper ballots and legally registered US voters will do what is right and necessary to save our country from future chaos at the hands of 'would be' trouble makers.

Candace Brewer

Research Candidates!

Dear Editor,

There seems to be one job you can get after agreeing to do several different things and still keep the job after not doing these things or doing just the opposite. That job is an elected government official and it starts at the local county officials and goes all the way to the White House. So, before you vote, do a little research on the candidates track record compared to what they promised to do if elected.

Check their campaign contributor's list. The ones that get big money from developers, seem to always side with them right here in Nassau County and forget about those of us that love our rural lifestyle.

When it comes to the job of President of the United States, Joe OBiden got rich off of the American taxpayers and crooked deals with foreign countries. Donald Trump did not take a salary while President and made his money building businesses and creating jobs.

If you like living in the real free American vote for the ones that do what they promise and are only beholdng to the majority of the people.

Rocky Lynn

CLASS REUNION

West Nassau High School Class of 1974

The WNHS Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th year reunion October 26 at 1881 Occasions at 6 p.m. in Hilliard. The event will be \$30 per person.

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Callahan Elementary
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Callahan Intermediate
Samantha Greene, Art; Kayliana Carson, 4th grade Math; Bryce Rhoden, 4th grade Math; Robin Rae, 3rd grade; Jeffrey Miller, 5th grade Math; Stacey Lowery, 5th grade ELA; Jessica Burch, Support Facilitator; Rachel Wilson, 3rd Grade; Lelia Chaney, 4th grade ELA & Math



Callahan Middle
Laura LaRose, Dean of Students; Jennifer Cantu, School Counselor; Alisha Whitaker, 6th grade ELA; Jennifer Nelson, 6th grade ELA; Alax Purvis, 7th grade Math; Earle Wilson, ISS teacher/coach



West Nassau High
Kaylynn Langford, Math; Mike Landtroop, Building Construction; Claudia Bleeker, Spanish; Breeanna DeGrove, English; Nicole Lightsey, English; Jennifer Latka, Theatre



Hilliard Middle-Senior High
Will Dyal, ISS; Amber Lonsberry, 6th grade ELA; Jon Conner, 7th grade Science; Clara Bruner, CTE; Jeanna Field, Math; Maddy Dyal, Math; Alex Reid, Social Studies; Gerald Wollitz, Aquaculture



Hilliard Elementary
Christie Vanzant, Support Facilitator; Marley Zodel, 2nd grade; Hannah Barcaro, 2nd grade; Dionna Myles, 2nd grade; Blake Crumbacker, 1st grade; April Hinson, 4th grade; Bryanna Arias, ESE Pre K; Ellen Adams, Art; Elysse Trevino, Speech Language Pathologist; Shannon Lusk, 5th grade; Tonya Keeton, 1st grade; Kirstie Gantt, Self-contained; Presley Ellis, Kindergarten; Lindsey Pittman, Kindergarten; Not pictured: Amanda Proffit, 3rd grade



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2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES



WEST NASSAU VARSITY WARRIORS

August 16	@ Paxon	6:30 p.m.
August 23	Frederica Academy (GA)	7:00 p.m.
August 30	Ridgeview	7:00 p.m.
September 6	@ Lake Weir	7:30 p.m.
September 13	@ Hamilton County	7:30 p.m.
September 20	Yulee	7:00 p.m.
September 27	@ Fernandina Beach	7:00 p.m.
October 4	@ Keystone Heights	7:30 p.m.
October 11	BYE	
October 18	Halifax (Homecoming)	7:00 p.m.
October 25	Dixie County (Sr. Night)	7:30 p.m.
November 1	Playoffs	



HILLIARD VARSITY FLASHES

August 16	@ Episcopal (KO Classic)	7:00 p.m.
August 23	Fernandina Beach	7:00 p.m.
August 30	@ Stanton	6:30 p.m.
September 6	@ Paxon	6:30 p.m.
September 13	Branford	7:00 p.m.
September 20	Crescent City	7:00 p.m.
September 27	BYE	
October 4	Old Plank (Homecoming)	7:00 p.m.
October 11	@ Hamilton County	7:30 p.m.
October 18	@ Interlachen	7:30 p.m.
October 25	@ Fort White	7:30 p.m.
November 1	Atkinson County	7:00 p.m.

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2024

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES



HILLIARD JV FLASHES

August 22	@ Charlton County	6:00 p.m.
August 29	@ Atkinson County	6:00 p.m.
September 5	Charlton County	6:00 p.m.
September 12	Fernandina Beach	6:00 p.m.
September 19	Union County	6:00 p.m.
September 26	@ Episcopal	6:00 p.m.
October 3	@ Bishop Kenny	5:00 p.m.
October 10	Cornerstone	6:00 p.m.



CALLAHAN MIDDLE RAMBLERS

August 20	Impact Christian	6:00 p.m.
August 27	Bolles	6:00 p.m.
September 3	Trinity	6:00 p.m.
September 10	@ Fernandina Beach	6:00 p.m.
September 17	@ St. Marys	6:00 p.m.
September 24	@ Cornerstone Christian	6:00 p.m.
October 1	Camden	6:00 p.m.
October 8	Yulee	6:00 p.m.



WEST NASSAU JV WARRIORS

August 22	@ Ridgeview	6:00 p.m.
August 29	@ Wolfson	6:00 p.m.
September 5	Episcopal	6:00 p.m.
September 26	@ Yulee	6:00 p.m.
October 3	Fernandina Beach	6:00 p.m.
October 10	Baldwin	6:00 p.m.



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Brooks Rehabilitation Holds Coffee Social

Dawn S. West

Last Friday, the Brooks Rehabilitation Clinic in Callahan, located behind McDonalds, held a coffee and donut social. It was a time for patients and residents to drop by their location and take a tour of the facility. I was pleasantly surprised by how peaceful and comforting the clinic was. It doesn't have the smell and feeling of a doctor's office or hospital and everyone was so welcoming. As a resident, I had a few questions that I also thought others might have concerning the clinic.

Brooks Rehabilitation offers many services and conditions including: Amputee; Balance and vestibular rehabilitation; Concussion management; Dry needling; Geriatric rehabilitation; Orthopedic rehabilitation; Physical therapy; Neurologic rehabilitation; Skilled manual therapy; Sports therapy and more.

During the tour I learned that each patient is unique in their needs and an individualized care plan will be set up for you, as no one is the same. All their therapists are at the top of their field



and dedicated to growing their skills for the latest technology and treatments.


Center manager, Stephen Ferry, PT, DPT, was happy to help me out with one of the main questions I had: Do you have to be referred by your primary doctor to have therapy?

In most cases the easiest path to therapy is with a referral from a doctor. This can be a primary physician or a specialist. Many insurances now allow an individual to come to physical therapy without a referral for up to 30 calendar days in the state of Florida. The 2 main exceptions to this are the traditional Medicare and Tricare. Regardless, after 30 days we would still have to have a physician that signs off on the plan of care.

How long do therapies last? An hour? Therapy sessions tend to be close to an hour, but can fluctuate based on the needs of the patient, level of complexity, and what specific things we might be working on at that time.

Brooks Callahan Clinic can be reached at 904-879-1223; or by visiting their office at 45390 Green Avenue.



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District 1

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- Develop a resilience plan to improve the safety of the port.
- Continue working with the Economic Development Board to create jobs and expand opportunities.
- Work with the Port Operator to develop new shipping opportunities and keep the port safe and in good working order.

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Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Danny Fullwood, Candidate for Ocean Highway & Port Authority, District 1.

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FINAL ESTATE SALE! Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 553274 US Highway 1, Hilliard. FINAL SALE: ½ OFF SALE!

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., 54320 Armstrong Rd., off Lem Turner, Callahan. Camper stabilizer kit, table with chairs, hats, boots, men's & women's clothes & more!

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RICHARD WAYNE CROSBY

 Richard Wayne Crosby, 82, of Callahan, passed away peacefully August 8, 2024, at his home with his loving family by his side. He was born February 20, 1942 in Folkston, Georgia to the late Joseph “JL” Linton and Martelle Sauls Crosby. Wayne proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. After his time in the service, Wayne began his career with Container Corporation as a paper machine operator. He was a loyal and dedicated employee for 32 years.

Although Wayne was a hardworking, driven man, he also enjoyed his downtime. He liked sharing stories about his time serving as a Marine, fishing, watching the Florida State Seminoles, Boston Celtics and the Cincinnati Reds. More than anything, Wayne loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, brother and grandfather, who will be dearly missed. Wayne is preceded in death by his parents; and grandparents Allen and Mary Sauls.

Wayne leaves behind his loving wife, Doris Crosby; children Johnny (Peri) Crosby, Joey (Lisa) Crosby, Kenny (Lindsay) Crosby and Mary (John) Nobles; brother David (Sherrie) Crosby; sister Wanda (George) Barthelmes; grandchildren Garrick Crosby, Emily Clark, AJ Crosby, Shelby Crosby, Jessica Farris, Kyler Crosby, Christian Nobles, Cheyenne Crosby, Conner Nobles, Kamden Crosby, Bristol Crosby and Briley Crosby; and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service for Wayne was held Tuesday, August 13 at Nassau Funeral Home with Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

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

OBITUARIES

WESLEY “EDDIE” FLYNN



Wesley Edwin “Eddie” Flynn, 69, of Callahan, passed away at home in early August after an extended illness.

Eddie was born in Jacksonville, but lived the majority of his life in Callahan. He was a member of First Baptist in Callahan. He worked as an electrician. Many people in the north Florida and South Georgia area knew him, through the work he did for both paying customers and those who could not afford to pay. Eddie called the charity work he did his way of giving back to his Lord. One of Eddie’s greatest joys was fishing, and he fished as often as he could get away. He had many fishing buddies and loved to embellish tales of their escapades for family and friends. Eddie was preceded in death by his mother and father, Edith and Bill Flynn; his older brother Billy; and his twin brother “Connie.”

He is survived by his son Chad (Gretchen), grandsons Paul and Ross; sisters Lynda, Lilah, and Carolyn; brother Bobby; and numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Eddie’s life will be held at a later date.

FRANK ROLAND HILDEBRAND



Frank Roland Hildebrand, 81, of Jacksonville, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, August 5, 2024. He was born August 24, 1942 in Jacksonville, to the late Frank Hildebrand, Sr. and Evelyn Mae Bryant.

Roland married the love of his life, Phyllis Ann Hildebrand, January 11, 1963. Roland was a welder by trade at

Aetna Steel and retired from C.F. Machine and Tool. He was a preschool teacher at Dinsmore Baptist Church for more than 20 years. Roland enjoyed fishing, collecting coins, and restoring his candy apple red “hot-rod” Chevy truck. He loved his dog, Sadie, western movies, NASCAR, racing go-karts, vacations in the mountains, Diet Coke, and cookies. He will be remembered by his children as a devoted husband and a loving father. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife of 47 years, Phyllis Hildebrand.

Surviving family includes his children, Todd Hildebrand, Lisa (Greg) Porter and Lori (Damon) Driggers; eight grandchildren Tyler (Tiffini) Hildebrand, Raegan Hildebrand, Leslie (Matt) Hammock, Lauren Porter, John (Ashley) Porter, Jenna Porter, Hannah (Tyler) Herren and Hallie Driggers; nine great-grandchildren Austin, Ava, Amelia, Hudson, Malia, Jordan, Owen, Ethan and Oaklynn; and siblings Earl (Cindy) Hildebrand, Frankie Hartley and Elizabeth Pendarvis.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Monday, August 12 at Hardage-Giddens, Riverside Memorial Park & Funeral Home, 7242 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville. Interment followed the service.

KATHLEEN M. JARRETT



Kathleen Margaret Jarrett, 101, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord August 10, 2024. She was born August 5, 1923, in Charleston, West Virginia to Emma Webb and her husband. Kathleen was a long-time member of Callahan First Baptist Church. She loved spending her time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In her spare time, Kathleen enjoyed reading her Bible and mowing her yard. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Garland S. Jarrett; second husband, Kin Johnson; oldest son Richard and his wife, Carolina Jarrett.

Kathleen is survived by her sons Robert (Beverly) Jarrett, Donnie (Judy) Jarrett and Johnny (Terri) Jarrett; and daughter Anna (Lloyd) Keith.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, August 14 at Jones Cemetery.

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

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

JAMES HENRY WAY, JR.



James Henry Way, Jr., 74, of Callahan, peacefully passed away Monday, August 5, 2024. James was born on July 21, 1950. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry “James” Way and Missouri Bell Way Melton; and two brothers Ronnie Way and Reginald Mitchell.

James was a 1968 graduate of Pine Forest Community School, which was the last graduating class. He was known for his basketball skills while playing for Pine Forest. After graduation, James was drafted into the United States Army where he served in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1970. Upon his return from Vietnam, James was employed by the Terminal Bag Company for a few years. He later began working with Anheuser Busch where he proudly gave 42 years and nine months of service.

James was married to Rose Marie Wright from 1976 to 2013. He was a member of Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church where he served as President of Usher Board #1, a Trustee and on the Finance Team. He was an avid gardener and had his Master Gardener certification with the Nassau County Extension Service of UF Institute of Food & Agriculture Sciences. James was also a licensed realtor, a devoted Dallas Cowboys fan, and loyal reader of the Consumer’s Report and Forbes Magazines.

James is survived by his children Gwen (Walter, Jr.) Cooper of Callahan, Troy (Kyanne) Way of Yulee and Tamar Way of Callahan; grandchildren Terrell Jenkins, Khamani Way, Jacob Cooper, Khy’lee Way, and Leilani Way; 11 brothers and sisters, Joanne Kelly of Callahan, Glenn (Cyndee) Hargrove of Youngstown, OH, Ozeal (Margaret) Way of Haywood, CA, Barbara (Connie “Mickey”) Mitchell of Callahan, Larry (Sharon) Mitchell of Hilliard, Calvin (Linda) Way of Miami, Yvonne (Holman) Donley of Callahan, Archie (Beatrice) Mitchell of Callahan, Dorothy Johnson of Jacksonville, Yvette Washington of Nashville, TN and Cynthia Humphrey of Jacksonville; special friend Gail Walters; special cousin Ivory “Pete” Melton, Jr.; and god-daughters Nikkii Mitchell and Lakisha Goodwin. James will be missed by special friends Johnnie Mincey, Cliff Miller and Billy Jordan, numerous nephews, nieces, other relatives, and friends.


The family will receive friends Friday, August 16 from 5-7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Callahan. A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, August 17 at 11 a.m. also at the church. Interment will be held Monday, August 19 at 11:30 a.m. at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

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SEG Supports Future Leaders with Scholarships

Southeastern Grocers Inc. (SEG), parent company and home of Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, today announced the awarding of \$75,000 in higher education scholarships to 25 exceptional in-store and store support center associates. Remaining steadfast in its commitment to the future of the grocery industry, SEG also recently hosted a dynamic summer internship program to provide valuable educational support and hands-on professional development opportunities for future leaders.

Raymond Rhee, Chief People Officer for Southeastern Grocers, said, "Empowering our associates and nurturing the next generation of leaders is an investment in the future. Our scholarship and internship programs are more than just financial support; by fostering education, providing robust training and offering career advancement opportunities, we are supporting their professional growth and laying the foundation for a more vibrant and forward-thinking industry. Our unwavering dedication to nurturing emerging talent underscores their capacity to shape a brighter, more successful future for all."

Understanding the importance of prioritizing its people, SEG invests in the development of its associates, helping them reach their short- and long-term career goals. Each scholarship recipient will receive \$3,000 to cover the costs of courses, books and more for the upcoming semester. Since the inception of SEG's scholarship program in 2020, the grocer has awarded \$287,000 to deserving associates. Each school year, interested associates with at least six months of tenure are encouraged to apply for a scholarship

after obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent degree.

The grocer's commitment to the future is also reflected in its internship program. Over the course of 12 weeks, the 13 summer interns, including international students, worked with leaders across various departments, including accounting and finance, digital marketing, communications, HR, IT, marketing, e-commerce, merchandising and operations. The interns planned and executed their own projects, which directly contribute to the grocer's innovation and success. Through the paid internship, the rising college juniors and seniors participated in more than 30 business workshops, personal and professional development sessions, networking opportunities, and they volunteered in the community and worked inside Harveys Supermarkets and Winn-Dixie grocery stores to gain firsthand experience as they built life-long friendships. The program also offers potential continued employment opportunities upon completion and graduation.

As a people-first organization, SEG prioritizes its associates and offers a large assortment of benefits, including 401(k) matching, associate discounts, quarterly bonuses and great health benefits, including medical, dental and vision. SEG also fosters advancement opportunities for associates by offering training programs and GED completion programs. Additionally, SEG promotes work-life balance with paid time off, paid holidays and paid parental leave, as well as a casual dress code, a flexible work schedule and a culture of belonging, inclusion and social responsibility.

Local Author Publishes Second Novel

Hannah Bree Campbell, a 2024 West Nassau High School graduate, announces the release of her second novel. Campbell was only 15 years old when she started writing her first book titled Eunoia, which was written in 2021. "The Eunoia Series" is a three-book series of historical fiction novels that follows Azalea Stanton, a free-spirited main character, as she navigates the challenges of being a young woman in the late 19th century.

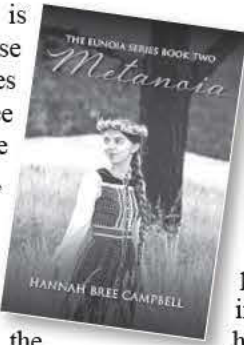
The first novel, "Eunoia", is named after the rare word whose meaning Campbell says describes Azalea, as it translates to a 'free thinker.' The first book in the series has sold worldwide, becoming popular in the United States, United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

The second novel follows the same hidden significance as the first, with the title of "Metanoia," whose meaning is 'a fundamental transformation of one's outlook on the world and mind,' which Campbell says describes what will

transpire in the story. Metanoia will pick up where the first novel left off, following Azalea's coming-of-age story that is filled with hardships and triumphs relating to the time period of the mid to late 1890s.

The author's main inspirations for writing come from traveling the world and meeting people that have had a positive influence on her life; "Writing is not something that comes easily to everyone, but I am forever grateful to those who have inspired me to write these books and made the characters feel real because of it. Most of all, I would like to thank God for giving me the motivation to write these novels, my parents for aiding me in this process, and David for constantly inspiring me, because I would have no words without you all."

Eunoia and Metanoia can be purchased at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, Target, and various other book retailer websites.



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POLICE REPORTS

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

Tuesday, August 6
Jacob Douglas Newkirk, 28, Hilliard: Battery Touch or Strike Domestic Violence
Jeffrey Neal Thomas, 63, Callahan: Criminal Mischief more than \$200 less than \$1000; Resist without Violence; Tampering with Electronic Monitoring Device

Thursday, August 8
Mason Edward Guthrie, 47, Hilliard: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance

Sunday, August 11
Sammuel Thomas Hicks, 32, Callahan: Aggravated Battery with Great Bodily Harm
William Vance Webb, 40, Callahan: Violation of Injunction Protected Ordinance; Prior Conviction Felony Battery Commit 2nd Subsequent Battery

Upcoming Ag/NR Programs/Activities:

CORE Continuing Education Units (FDACS)
Monday, August 19 • 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. • Cost is \$10 + Eventbrite fee
Multi-purpose building (fairgrounds), 543350 US Hwy 1, Callahan
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/core-continuing-education-units-florida-department-of-agriculture-and-consumer-services-fdacs-tickets-978394413027?aff=oddtcreator>
Laws, Regulations, and Labeling. Understanding the label and labeling information including the common name of the pesticides they are utilizing; pests to be controlled, timing and methods of application; safety precautions; and specific disposal procedures. This class grants 2 CEUs in 487/482 General Standards/CORE

THERM N' WORM COMPOST N' Learn
Saturday, August 24 • 2 - 4:45 p.m. • Cost: \$20
Callahan Multi-purpose Building (fairgrounds), 543350 US Hwy 1, Callahan
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/therm-n-worm-compost-n-learn-registration-966318002157?aff=oddtcreator>
Learn to use the power of thermal microbes (therm) and red wigglers (worm)! to achieve success in composting. After this workshop you'll be able to create rich soil for starting seeds, amending your vegetable garden, increasing your soil health; plus, you'll be able to recycle any food waste into fishing bait (worms) while improving the environment and lowering greenhouse gases!
If you have been to a composting workshop taught by Extension, email david.hebert@ufl.edu or call (904)530-6356 with the time and date of which class you attended to receive a \$5 discount on the purchase price of the composting class on August 24.



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OMNI Amelia Island Partners with Nassau Habitat for Humanity

Nassau Habitat for Humanity is excited to announce a continued partnership with Omni Amelia Island Resort, for the second year in a row. The luxury resort is located on Amelia Island and is one of the largest employers in Nassau County. “We are proud to once again support Nassau Habitat for Humanity’s efforts in our community,” said Managing Director Theo Schofield. “In the spirit of one our company’s core values, Heart for All, our associates are encouraged to champion our communities by living the culture and supporting those in need.”

Through the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Community Contribution Tax Credit Program (CCTCP) Omni Amelia Island will help fund building materials for one of four houses being built in 2024. When complete, the project will provide four, three-bedroom volunteer-built homes for four deserving families. CCTCP provides a financial mechanism to encourage Florida businesses to make donations toward community development and housing projects for lower-income persons. Omni Amelia Island associates will also provide 200 hours of volunteer time to help build the homes currently under construction.



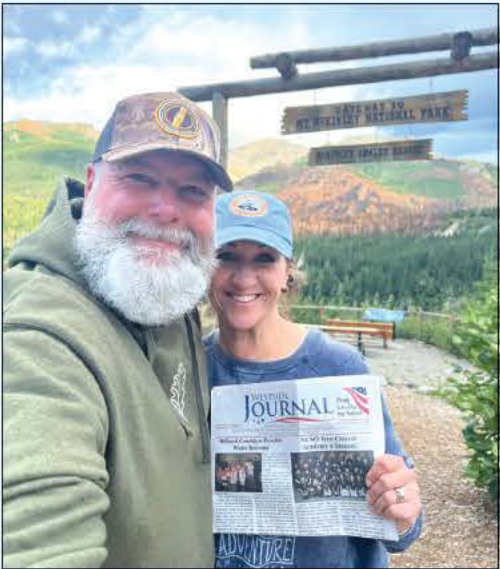
Shown is the Omni group presenting a \$144,000 check to Nassau Habitat for Humanity in front of the Fernandina Beach site for one of four homes.

“This year, the dream of a home that is affordable and sustainable is out of reach for more Nassau County families than ever before,” commented Carol Bolton, Executive Director of Nassau Habitat for Humanity. “The organization greatly appreciates Omni Amelia Island Resort’s commitment to helping us in this mission to build family strength, stability, and self-reliance through home ownership.”

Nassau Habitat has set a goal to build six new homes annually by 2026 and invite prospective partners to join its current partners, including Omni Amelia Island Resort, in making the dream of home ownership come true for more families in the local community.

Please visit our website to see the many ways you can contribute: nassauhabitatforhumanity.org.

Westside Journal Visits Alaska!



Adam and Jodie Pierce, of Callahan, recently visited Alaska. It was a cruise/land tour which started in Vancouver, Canada and ended in Anchorage, Alaska. Stops along the way included Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Whittier, and Denali National Park. The scenery was breathtaking and the weather perfect. It’s always true...the pictures never do it justice! Somehow, the Pierces remembered to take along a copy of the Westside Journal with them on their amazing trip!



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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mary Holoka Sadesky Celebrates 100th Birthday

Mary Holoka Sadesky celebrated her 100th birthday August 5. She was born August 5, 1924 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania to Alex and Mary Holoka, Sr. She grew up in Millsboro, PA. She had two brothers Alex Holoka, Jr. and Andy Holoka. She graduated from Millsboro High School in 1942. Mary then moved to Detroit, Michigan and worked 2 years in a factory, making pistons for automobiles.

Mary moved back to Pennsylvania and married Steve P. Sadesky, Sr. in 1944. They had two children Steve P. Sadesky, Jr. and Linda Sadesky. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where they lived until they moved to Hilliard, in November 1958. They bought the Hi-Lite Motel in Hilliard, where they were owners and managers. Unfortunately, her husband, Steve, passed away in 1997. Mary continued to run the Hi-Lite until it was sold in 2016. Mary's son Steve still lives in Hilliard and currently Mary lives in Jacksonville with her daughter Linda.



Mary celebrated her special milestone with a huge party held in her honor last Saturday, August 10, at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church in Callahan. There were about 65 family and friends attending her party and sharing well wishes! Her remaining relatives traveled from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia and Florida to help her celebrate! It was a wonderful party for a precious lady! Congratulations!

Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Conner

Dalton and Alexis Conner were united in marriage May 18, 2024 at the Cedar Lodge on Honey Creek in Waverly, Georgia.

The bride is the daughter of Shane and Kelly Barber of Hilliard. She is employed with Hilliard Middle-Senior High School as a teacher and also UF Health as the Athletic Trainer at the school.

The groom is the son of Lyle Conner of Macclenny; and Missy Jensen of Hilliard. He is employed with Cogburn Electric Company.

Serving as maid of honor was Allison Barber. Bridesmaids were Lauren Brown, Bailea Tomlinson, Grace Thomason, Courtney Hengerer, Courtney Watts, Brealyn Holley and Bella Williams.

Serving as best man was Lyle Conner. Groomsmen were Peyton Conner, Colton Conner, Aaron Wade, Avry Thomason, Trey Loyd, Hunter Dennis and Tristan Williams.

Following a honeymoon trip to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, the couple is residing in Hilliard.



NCSO Detective Presented Award



Recently, the FBI graciously presented a prestigious award to Detective Josh Carter of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) for his collaboration on a case. On April 3, 2023, Detective Carter, who was part of the Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force, traveled to Texas and arrested Charles Grant Leonard of Nacogdoches, Texas. Leonard was accused of using electronic devices to coerce a minor victim

in Nassau County into sending explicit photos and videos.

The investigation began in December 2022 after the victim, who had received a new cell phone, was contacted by Leonard posing as a 12-year-old girl on the game app "Rec Room." Leonard then instructed the victim to communicate with him via Snapchat, where he requested sexually explicit content.

Great job, Detective Carter, on your diligent work on this case!

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