

"Say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, HE WILL COME WITH VENGEANCE; WITH DIVINE RETRIBUTION HE WILL COME TO SAVE YOU.'" - ISAIAH 35:4

# **Trees to Remain on Booth Street in Callahan**

#### Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of August with all council persons present. The first order of business was from a concerned resident about flooding concerns on his property from the new construction at the Callahan Crossing duplexes. The duplex is located directly behind Full Circle Animal Hospital off of SR 200. "My wife Judith and I live on James Street right behind the construction area. They are continually bringing more dirt on the property which concerns me about flooding my property," said Mr. Ray Chapman. "We've never had flooding before but I'm concerned about it now."

"I met with the contractor, developer and the engineer about the property today. The grade is too high," said Town Manager Mike Williams. "They plan to re-survey the property and correct the problems before construction goes any further. The new development will tie into the water/sewer system on Luther Street, which is no problem. I plan to meet again with the group once the survey is complete before any more work is done."

"Just stay on top of it before any asphalt is done," added Mr. Chapman. "Once they start paving there's not a lot that can be done."

The council Resolution 2021-R06 which concerned a language access plan for limited proficiency English persons. This addition to the CDBG-MIT Program is a required part of the grant.

The council also approved Resolution 2021-R05 which concerned a donation

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of \$1850 to the West Nassau Historical Society to go towards expenses for the Annual Callahan Christmas Parade.

following agenda The item concerned much discussion about the



tree problems and narrowness of Booth Street. Councilwoman Ashton Bishop Vargas advised the council that she has had numerous people calling and emailing her about Booth Street. "Only one person is in favor of removing the trees, they all want it to be safer, and no

> one really wants it one way," said Vargas. "Maybe we could put speed bumps on it to slow people down?"

> > "The roots from the trees already make speed bumps," said Janet Councilwoman Shaw.

"The road is a hazard and unsafe for drivers and the children that live on the road," said Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming. "We have to do something, that's why we're talking about it. We

must try to make it a safer road." Callahan resident

Higginbotham addressed the council. "Trees are a part of our history here in Callahan. The humps in the road make you slow down. The speed limit is 20 mph. Maybe we could use a little more police presence?" said Higginbotham.

"I say save the trees and make Booth a one way street," said Emily Baumgartner. "Booth Street was platted in 1906. Trees have a historical value."

"The large oak tree on the Braddock property is a bad tree and should come down," said resident Janet Johnson. "We could also use more maintenance on the edges of the road. I'm not in favor of one way."

"I will suggest we take one tree down (by the Braddock property)," said Williams. "Once the tree is down, then repave the road to make it safer."

A motion was made by Vargas to remove the one tree and repave the road. More discussion continued.

"How much money are we talking

repave the road?" asked Shaw.

"Probably around \$70,000.00," added Williams.

"Well I don't want to take the tree down and not get the road repaved," said Vargas. "I want to change my motion to mill up the street and repave it without taking down any trees."

The council approved the motion.

Councilman David Mellecker advised the council that he just wanted their input about what they thought about the fireworks display. Responses were: very good; it was long; and some of the fireworks seemed really low.

Council President Ken Bass asked the council if they would be interested about the possibility of purchasing the Brandies Ace Hardware property. "Following a meeting with Brandies family members, they wanted to offer the property to the town before they offered it to anyone else," said Bass. "They mainly want to know if we (the Town) have any interest at all in all or part of the property."

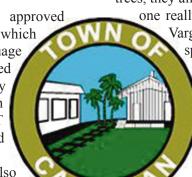
All the council agreed that they are interested and would like to make Town Hall there and possibly a museum of some kind. They are interested but would like to know the costs involved.

Bass advised the council that he would return the council's comments to the owners and go from there.

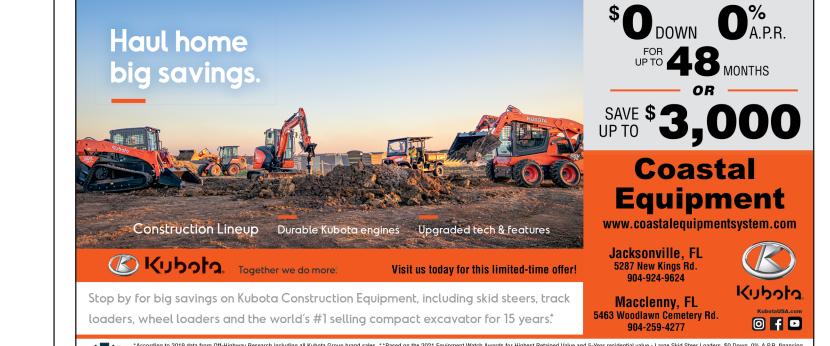
During closing comments, Williams advised the council that the town can attain some funding from the government with the American Rescue Act. "The total amount of the money the town will qualify for is \$681,160.00," said Williams. "If you want to apply for the money, I need the council to authorize the mayor to sign the forms and get them sent in. If accepted, the money will come in two payments."

The council approved the mayor's authorization for the paperwork.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, September 7 (due to the Monday holiday) at 7 p.m.



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# A Word S From the Publisher

So thankful that the first week of school is done! I'm sure there were a lot of glitches but that is to be expected. I'm just so glad our children were able to return at somewhat the 'normal' time of year and things to be 'kind of' normal. I was able to attend two of our granddaughters 'Meet & Greet' at their school (same one). It was so refreshing to watch the children as they began to see their friends (with no mask) and run up to each other and with big smiles and hugs. That's children. That's what we have taught them to do. Have friends and care for them. There sure were lots of smiles that day and I'm sure it's still going on each day at school.

You know it's really easy to get caught up in the world but for me, all it does is get me down. There is no other way to make it through these trying times except taking it one day at a time. Each day has so many blessings yet for some, it's easier to be negative. I'm so thankful to wake up but also thankful for bedtime! With God's watchful care and guidance, there's no other way to make it through the day. But I do have those days that the Lord has to tap me on the head and remind me that He is in control, not me. It's those times that I try to take the reins that trouble appears.

Yes, we are going through some trying times and I really think we are headed for more. Now is the time (actually past time) that we keep our eyes focused on the Lord. God is our refuge and strength but He also gives us the courage to do and say what is right when we should. There are many things in this world that I don't agree with and things that offend me. We (or I) have always been taught to be courteous and not make a scene. Well, I think its past time that we start standing up for what is right. In the Bible it teaches us that God never changes. He taught us right from wrong; good from evil etc. Why is it now that we don't see those things?

As I have said many times before, having Christ in your heart is the most important thing we can do right now. Nothing else matters. When the Lord says, Ready or not here I come, it will be too late for many. Our God is on His throne looking at the chaos happening in his beautiful creation and I can't help but think how frustrated He must be. How has this happened? We allowed it to. As I continue to search scriptures and read more about God it becomes clearer and clearer that He is coming soon. It's time for us as Christians to stand up and speak up for our Lord. Are you ready for His return?

Have a blessed week!

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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.

### What happens next, America?

Dear Editor,

He's done it again! Our "Fearless" leader has created chaos in Afghanistan by telegraphing the removal of our troops from the region. The takeover by the Taliban is only hours away now! Of course most of us are tired of the 20-year-old conflict, but why couldn't we have made the move without fanfare and in a more orderly fashion instead having to scramble now to get our personnel to a safe haven.

But why should we be surprised after what is occurring at our southern border with the record breaking number of COVID infested migrants illegally crossing over from other countries bringing deadly drugs and many of them involved in sex trafficking and other unlawful pursuits. Our government is placing them throughout our beloved country while at the same time admonishing U.S. citizens to protect ourselves from COVID. That is letting the wolf guard the hen house for sure!

So what is next for America? In just seven months of the Biden takeover we are feeling higher prices at the grocery store and at the gas pump. We are seeing a significant increase in crime and lawlessness all across our nation.

Our nation and its leaders are in need of prayer now more than ever. China and Russia are relishing over the in-fighting occurring in our halls of Congress, not to mention the goofs that pop up when our Presidents speaks without the tele-prompter.

So, all I can say is: Brace yourself AMERICA!

Frank Kearns, Sr.

#### WNHS SWIM TEAM CAR WASH FUNDRAISER ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE WEST NASSALI SWIM TEAM SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 • 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. O'REILLY'S AUTO PARTS 450076 SR 200, CALLAHAN (WINN DIXIE SHOPPING CENTER)

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# In the Kitchen...

1 can (10 oz.) green enchilada sauce 3/4 cup salsa verde 1 pound ground beef 4 flour tortillas (10 inches) 1-1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided

**Smothered Burritos** 

Preheat oven to  $375^{\circ}$ . In a small bowl, mix enchilada sauce and salsa verde. In a large skillet, cook beef 8-10 minutes, breaking into crumbles; drain. Stir in 1/2 cup sauce mixture. Spoon 2/3 cup beef mixture across center of each tortilla; top each with 3 tablespoons cheese. Fold bottom and sides of tortilla over filling and roll up. Place in a greased 11x7 baking dish. Pour remaining sauce mixture over top; sprinkle with remaining 3/4 cup cheese. Bake, uncovered, until cheese is melted, 10-15 minutes.



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The Westside Journal is published every Thursday by Westside Journal, LLC, owned by Roger and Dawn West. Printed by Florida Sun Printing in Callahan, Florida. Mailed free of charge to all residents in postal zip codes 32011, 32046 and 32009.

Advertisement Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m. Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 12 p.m. WESTSIDE IOURNAL STAFF

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Roger West	Owner/Reporter
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# FSS Provides School Supplies for Foster Children



Family Support Services of North Florida (FSS) and the Marauders recently joined together to help local children in foster care prepare for the school year during the Tee it Up for School event. The event took place Saturday, August 7 at the Staples in Fernandina Beach.

The event gave dozens of families the opportunity to shop for school supplies at no cost. Each child was gifted \$100 to spend, thanks to a generous donation from the Marauders, a Golf Club of about 30 local golfers known for their philanthropy throughout the North Florida community. During the event, children were paired with a member of the Marauders to guide them through the store as they chose items specific to their wants and needs. FSS also worked to coordinate supplies for families who were unable to attend the in-person shopping experience.

In addition to the more than \$10,000 donated by the Marauders, Publix also contributed free resources to make the day extra special for families.

Family Support Services of North Florida is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties. FSS provides services and programs to help prevent child abuse and neglect, to promote a healthy family environment and to care for our community's children in foster care. For more information, visit www.fssjax.org.



# JUST MY OPINION

#### Roger R. West

Can you only imagine the feelings of the loved ones who lost family members in Afghanistan, to now watch all the heartache and loss they suffer is for nothing? Once again, Joe Biden has shown the world what a failure he and his administration are, not only on the domestic stage but clearly on the international stage. All the sacrifices made by American men and women in uniform over the past years were just thrown to the wind by Biden. This sort of takes me back to the early 70's. As the world falls apart Joe is vacationing at Camp David.

Staying true to their lame narratives, Biden placed blame for the Taliban taking over Afghanistan on President Trump. Everything is Trump's fault! Trump responded by saying, "Biden gets it wrong every time on foreign policy" and blaming the Afghan disaster on Biden's "weakness, incompetence, and total strategic incoherence."

I'm sure Joe doesn't remember telling America on July 8 that America would not suffer embarrassment in Afghanistan. He stated, "The Taliban is not the south—the North Vietnamese army. They're not remotely comparable in terms of capability. There's going to be no circumstance where you see people being lifted off the roof of an embassy of the United States from Afghanistan. It is not comparable." Americans being airlifted by helicopters from the roof of our Embassy in Kabul. Even the Afghan President fled the country Sunday. Yes Joe it is very comparable to Vietnam. All the blood shed from American heroes is now on your hands.

Senator Marco Rubio stated, "When the Biden Administration announced their Afghanistan pullout plan, several of us on the Intel Committee told them their predictions of what would happen next were complete fantasy. We are now witnessing how true our warnings to them were." There are also a few Democrat House members that have come out against the Biden administration in the reckless abandonment in Afghanistan.

This current administration has failed on every level. Where are the 80 million supporters? Can any of them state one positive thing that has emerged from this inept President? At least we don't have those mean tweets that hurt so many feelings, right? This administration is the laughing stock of the world and as they destroy our Republic, too many are just sitting back and enjoying their little piece of earth failing to realize what is getting ready to hit them square in the face. Then they are going to want to know why no one told them. You have been told, go back to sleep.

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





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# God's Truth

#### Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



When we think about truth, what comes to mind? Do we think about what the culture we live in today considers to be true? The concept of relative truth is not new by any means. People have been playing with the concept of relative truth for centuries. From the Enlightenment period of the 1700's to the post-modern age we find that there have been many schools of thought on what is truth.

No matter which relative truth we are told, there is one truth that is not relative. This truth is absolute. God's truth does not change. It does not compromise. It is eternal. Some may consider the concept of uncompromising truth disturbing. I find it comforting.

I know that everyone has been affected in some way from the pandemic. Covid-19 is a very serious problem...A storm that we must all try to navigate our way through. Last week I attended the memorial of a dear friend and fellow believer. A kinder, gentler soul you could not find. I think of him and all those who have succumbed to this disease. I think about the pain and heartache of their families and friends dealing with their loss. I think of all the prayer requests and visitations that I have been doing for those that have fallen ill or perished from this horrible disease. In some cases, the people we pray with have placed their faith is Jesus and know that they are not alone. In some situations, they do not. Going through life alone is not something I would want at the best of times, and these are certainly not the best of times.

Navigating through these times does not have to be done alone.

One of the most comforting absolute truths of God is in Deuteronomy 31. Moses is encouraging Joshua to be courageous in the face of the challenges before the people of Israel. He reminds Joshua that God is with them and will not leave them. I also think of Jesus Christ calming the storm in Matthew 8. God does not promise that there will be no storms. There will be tribulation, there will be challenges as we walk through life. God's absolute truth comforts me because that no matter what I face, God is with me and will never leave me. I can trust in Him. I can trust that no matter the outcome, it will be for God's glory and my good.

God will be with you as you face these challenges to. All that you need to do is place your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. God loves each and every one of us. Trust in that love. You do not have to be alone. Jesus is waiting...give your life to Christ today.

# **CHURCH NEWS**

BETHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH will be selling Barbecue Dinners this Friday, August 20 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday.





# Hope Builders for Women

The goal is to empower economically, women emotionally and socially. This is a one-on-one program, providing support in reaching your personal goals while adding new tools to your toolbox of success.

The Hope Builders for Women program will focus

on the following areas: Educational Employment search/ trainings; preparedness; Communication Skills; Budgeting/building financial strength; Stress management; Emotional setbacks: and Local resource assistance

Participant rewards: Opportunities to earn gift cards; 75% goal completion for graduation reward; and Establishing a savings account of \$1000 with a match of \$1000, after successful graduation of the program.

Participants in the program can also receive wrap-around services for additional support that is provided by the Barnabas Center. These services include medical care, mental health services, dental care, healthy food, clothing, and

crisis financial assistance. Additional services by local partners include vision screenings/glasses and legal assistance. The program is also available in Spanish.

For more information about Barnabas Center's Hope Builders for Women program, contact Priscilla Maldonado by calling 904-261-7000 ext.104; or by email at: PMaldonado@ BarnabasNassau.org.

## NassauTRANSIT Expands Paratransit Service

#### Discontinues Bus Stop Service Effective September 30

County Council Nassau on Aging (NCCOA), which operates NassauTRANSIT, announces the expansion of paratransit service effective October 1 with a more flexible Monday-Friday schedule. Also, Saturday paratransit service will begin on Amelia Island effective October 2, and later on the west side of the county including Callahan and Hilliard.

In addition, NassauTRANSIT will discontinue scheduled pick-ups and drop-offs at public bus stops effective September 30 with the exception of Nassau Express Select. Service through the Island Hopper in Fernandina Beach will also be discontinued September 30.

"A drop in bus-stop to bus-stop ridership - beginning before the pandemic - precipitated this decision," said Janice Ancrum, NCCOA President & CEO. "We realize this is a change for our community. However, it will better enable us to focus on our core mission of paratransit service for Nassau County citizens."

"Paratransit" is a door-to-door service with scheduled pick-ups and drop-offs based on passengers' requests. The expansion will provide more access to work, recreation, shopping, and medical and other appointments for people with limited or no personal transportation options.

The state of Florida requires registration for paratransit service through NassauTRANSIT. Nassau County residents may apply by calling NassauTRANSIT at 904-261-0700 or by visiting our website at: https:// www.nassautransit.org/transportationprograms/. Once you are registered and approved, passengers may schedule door-to-door rides in advance.

All NassauTRANSIT bus operators and vehicles are credentialed to federal and state requirements, and all vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

If you have questions, please contact Mike Hays, NassauTRANSIT Transportation Director, at mhays@ nassaucountycoa.org.

**Come Join Us at Live Oak Baptist Church** for Great Fellowship and Food Sunday, August 22nd Back to School...Back to Church...

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## **BACK TO LIFE**

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(meal immediately following service in the fellowship hall)

The church is located between Callahan and Hilliard off Dval Road, 1 mile west of US Hwy. 1. For more information call 879-3400.

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## **Hilliard Parks & Recreation News**

#### *Gabe Whittenburg, Director, Parks & Recreation*

Greetings from Hilliard Parks & Recreation! It has been so busy here at the park this summer that I haven't had a chance to provide an update. Just to catch everyone up, I'd like to recap all of our programs from the summer. First, our summer camp was an enjoyable time for both campers and counselors alike. We enjoyed seven weeks of themes and were able to enjoy field trips to a few local destinations such as the Okefenokee Swamp and Fort Clinch. We even had our local electric company (OREMC) come out and demonstrate how electricity works. With an average daily attendance in the 30s, we had our hands full! However, our counselors were up for the challenge. I would like to thank them for their heart for kids. Many of them are recent high school graduates and I am excited for them as they begin to forge their future. I'd also like to give a shout out to our lifeguards who were a big help every day when our camp kids made their way to the pool. It truly took the entire HP&R community to make our camp a success and I am thankful for each of them. Among our camp counselors and lifeguards were Valedictorians, Salutatorians, Flashes, Warriors, Indians, Gators, Bulldogs, a JU Dolphin Softball Pitcher and soon to be Armed Service members. Based on this sampling, the future of our community is in good hands!

Other programs we enjoyed this summer were our sports camps. We kicked off summer with our Big Red Football Camp. With over 60 participants, we were more than pleased with the turnout. I am thankful for Daniel 'Big Boy' Thomas and the entire Thomas family for helping out with this camp. Also, many of my former players and coaching friends at Charlton County High School stepped up and helped in a big way. It was awesome to see close to 100 kids on our fields or at our pool between the football and summer camp. After our football camp, we had our first Volleyball Camp. A big thank you

goes out to HMSH Volleyball coaches Brea Saunders and Kearsten Holley for helping make this camp a success. To close out the summer we had our inaugural Big Red Basketball camp. With over 50 campers, this was a huge success. Our gym was packed with future basketball starts from all over Nassau and Charlton counties. Shout out to Myron Saunders, Brea Saunders and Jeremy Schreiber for helping with this camp. Last, we held our first Tennis clinic for the month of July. I am extremely appreciative to CCHS Tennis Coach Thomas Brooks for helping with this new program.

If our summer camps weren't enough, we also had our Flag Football season during the summer. Although we dodged a tropical storm and afternoon thunderstorms most of the season, I was pleased with the turnout with over 70. I was also fortunate enough to be able to coach the 9U Red Flashes. Although I was thankful to have coached them, I am sure they would have received better coaching from another coach! A big thank you is in order to all of the parents, coaches and volunteers who helped make Tuesday and Thursday nights a busy time here at the park. While all of this was going on with youth programs, our fitness center continued to flourish, our pool was the place to be (when rain didn't chase us away) and our SilverSneakers/Boom! Muscle classes were well attended.

As we transition into fall, be on the lookout for our fall sports programs. First up will be our youth Volleyball program targeting girls ages 10-15. Signups run through the month of August with a registration cost of \$60. We will also be opening up our Fall/ Winter Gymnastics program which will run from October – December. Also we are looking at hosting an adult flag football tournament as well as other programs that people of all ages can enjoy. Give us a call and we can share all that we offer here at the park, 845-2733. As always, it is a great day at Hilliard Parks & Recreation!





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# WEST NASSAU VARSITY WARRIORS

August 20	Preseason @ <b>PK Young</b>	7:00 p.m.
August 27	@ Bolles	7:30 p.m.
September 3	BYE	
September 10	@ Yulee	7:00 p.m.
September 17	Baldwin	7:00 p.m.
September 24	Bishop Kenny	7:00 p.m.
October 1	@ Orange Park	7:00 p.m.
October 8	Palatka	7:00 p.m.
October 15	Fernandina (Homecoming)	7:00 p.m.
October 22	@ Astronaut	7:00 p.m.
October 29	Jackson (Sr. Night)	7:00 p.m.
November 5	@ Ridgeview	7:00 p.m.

Callahan TIRE AND LUBE

# HILLIARD VARSITY FLASHES

August 20	Preseason @ Fernandina	6:30 p.m.
August 27	Wolfson	7:00 p.m.
September 3	@ Stanton	7:00 p.m.
September 10	Paxon	7:00 p.m.
September 17	@ Mayo-Lafayette	7:30 p.m.
September 24	@ Crescent City	7:00 p.m.
October 1	BYE	
October 7	@ Providence	7:00 p.m.
October 15	Branford (Homecoming)	7:00 p.m.
October 22	Trenton (Sr. Night)	7:00 p.m.



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WESTSIDE JOURNAL ~ Thursday, August 19, 2021 ~ Page 7



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### **SERVICES CONT.**

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#### EMPLOYMENT

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Life Care Center of Hilliard now hiring RNs and LPNs, must have FL License. Please apply in person to: 3756 West 3rd Street. Hilliard or fax resume to 904-845-9487 or email to loren Beddish@lcca com<mailto:Loren\_Reddish@lcca.com.tfn

DIETARY AIDE, part time evenings. Prior food service experience preferred. Please apply online at www. lifecarecareers.com. LCCHilliard/904-845-3988. tfn

EXPERIENCED DRIVER/LAWN SEEKING TECHNICIAN. MUST have clean valid driver's license, transportation and be dependable. Call 904-879-6709 for an interview. tfn

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TECHNICIAN NEEDED! Busy auto repair shop looking for a reliable, experienced technician. References required. Must have valid driver's license, transportation and tools. Pay based on experience. Apply in person to: Lucky's Transmission, 540439 US Highway 1, Callahan. tfn

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#### **EMPLOYMENT CONT.**

ADMINSTRATIVE COORDINATOR: Nassau County has an opening for an Administrative Coordinator in the Technical Services Department at \$18.8878 - \$28.7403 hourly plus benefits. Applications will be accepted until filled. To apply please visit www. nassaucountyfl.com or for additional information contact the Human Resources Department located at 96135 Nassau Place, Suite 5, Yulee, Florida 32097, Telephone (904) 530-6075 or Fax (904) 321-5797. Drug Free Workplace. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable laws. 91921

THE TOWN OF HILLIARD is seeking a highly motivated, qualified individual to serve as an ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT to perform specialized administrative work under the general direction of the Town Clerk, Qualified applicant should be: proficient minute transcription skills. ability to proofread and edit, experience with records management in accordance with the law, effective oral and written communication skills, ability to complete assignments within stringent deadlines, excellent follow-up skills, ability to maintain confidentiality and be sensitive to political issues, responding to citizen inquiries regarding official actions, analyzing data and developing recommendations, ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with town officials, employees and general public; knowledge of Public Information and Records Laws, website maintenance, social media and have the ability to take on additional municipal duties as required. High School Diploma required, Associates Degree in Business preferred and at the least two years' experience in the public sector or equivalent work experience. Individual must be proficient in Windows XP, Microsoft Office, Word & Excel computer programs and have knowledge of Florida Statues. Salary will depend on qualifications. The Town of Hilliard is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace. Post-offer physical required. Applications may be picked up at Town Hall located at 15859 West County Road 108, Hilliard, Florida from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or downloaded from www.townofhilliard.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. 81921

NOW HIRING at Traders Hill Farm. Please apply in person at 30771 Fog Horn Lane, Hilliard. 82621

Any candidate aspirant to become a PHARMACY TECHNICIAN or CASHIER, we will train. May apply in person to: Citizen Pharmacy, 450077 SR 200 Ste. 4, Callahan. 81921

Brock Landscaping and Irrigation is looking for a LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE LEADMAN and FIELD LABORERS. We are an industrial and commercial only landscape company who specializes in large corporate and government properties. Offering top pay in the industry for hard-working individuals. Offices in Hilliard and Jacksonville. \$12 - \$20/hour depending upon experience. Sign on bonus, holidays paid after 3 months, one week vacation after a year. Send resumé to cbrocklandscape@windstream.net or call Trevor at 904-323-8138. EOE 90921

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# NAMI Announces New Website

#### Nancy Bell, President of NAMI

We are proud to announce the organization's new website: www. naminassauflorida.org. This updated, user-friendly website provides timely, comprehensive information about NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in general and about our allvolunteer local organization, NAMI Nassau County, in particular. The NAMI Board of Directors placed a priority on modernizing the look and functionality as well as updating content to better reflect the mental health challenges of our immediate community and to highlight local resources available.

Our new website features easy access to Free Support Groups, In Crisis (with national hotlines), Resources, Education, Calendar

and Advocate. You can explore "Your Journey", which provides help and resources for a wide range of situations. You can read articles from national experts and research local resources offering help. And, of course, you can reach out to your local NAMI right here in Nassau County for a group of caring, open-minded people who have walked many miles in other folks' shoes.

Have you been concerned about the mental health challenges faced by our county during the Covid-19 Pandemic? Like Covid-19 itself, the effects on mental health can often be secretive and the long-range consequences unclear.

Each county is different, and Nassau, with its wide swath from the ocean to the St. Marys River, from the Georgia line down to Bryceville, is like no other. Just as mental illness affects individuals differently, so our website must reflect the concerns and disparate backgrounds of our very own residents.

Have the flexibility to help those who need it? Please consider volunteering, donating or becoming a member of NAMI Nassau County. Memberships are as low as \$5 for those of limited financial resources up to \$60 for a family. Your membership fee or donation directly benefits NAMI

Nassau County. Join as a member on our website or send a donation to us at NAMI Nassau County National Alliance on Mental Illness FL, PO Box 16712, Fernandina Beach,

FL 32035. Donations will be used to increase our educational offerings and expand our support groups and will stay within the community.

Just as the effects of mental illness vary from person to person, your volunteer opportunities are flexible. Know that any help – leading groups, offering expertise or a personal story, providing financial support - will be greatly appreciated! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us by email to: naminassauflorida.com, phone 904-277-1886, or consider attending one of our meetings.

# 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.

#### Wednesday, August 11

Bobby Lee Mixson, Jr., 43, Hilliard: Battery Domestic Violence; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance (x 2); DUI; Habitual Traffic Offender Thursday, August 12

Damon Scott Jones, 50, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

Daniel Dean Luce, 27, 36083 Bethel Church Road, Callahan: Possession of Cocaine; Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue

#### Friday, August 13

Reginald Leonard Dixon, 27, 13559 Raulerson Road, Bryceville: Carjacking Ryan Leslie Willey, 31, Callahan: Failure to Appear Felony (x 9)

#### Saturday, August 14

Stacy Donell Roberts, 51, Callahan: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon Sunday, August 15

James Cary Carter, 54, Callahan: No Proof of Insurance; Driving an Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Habitual Traffic Offender

## Nassau County Teen Court is Back! Celebrating 23 Years with Nassau Youth

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Real Teenage offenders...Real Crimes...

Real Court Sanctions handed down...

All by Teen Attorneys, Jurors and Court Officers

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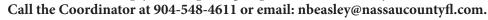
Sign in between 5:30 - 5:45 p.m.

Court Begins Promptly at 6:00 p.m. and is over by 7:00 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boys; and modest dress for girls.

3 Hours Community Service for each Court Session!

We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorneys in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the Coordinator about joining the team is welcome! Per our Chief Judge we will have to wear masks while we are in the Courthouse and practice social distancing.

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#### MARTHA JANE COLGAN



Martha Jane Colgan, 77, of Callahan, passed away peacefully August 14, 2021 at Baptist North in Jacksonville. She was born on January 29,

1944 in Brooker, Florida to Bryant and Mildred Tyler. Martha loved spending time with her family and going on shopping trips. If she was known to you by Mammal or Pinkie, she loved you with all her heart. She was preceded in death by her parents; son Ricky R. Johnson; grandson Ricky Jr.

Martha is survived by her husband of 43 years, Harold Colgan; sons Marvin E. (Tonia) Johnson, Jr. and William B. Clark; daughter Martha J. (Aaron) Lamb; grandchildren Bryan, Christina, Jose, Chad (Amanda), Lisa, Marvin, III (Debony), Justin (Brittney), Tiffany and Anthony; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-greatgrandchildren; several other extended family members and numerous friends.

The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Friday, August 20 prior to the celebration of life service at 12 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery.

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

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

#### JANA M. GILLIAM

Jana M. Gilliam, beloved daughter, sister, mother and aunt, passed from this life into eternal life on Friday, August 13, 2021. Jana was born on May 8, 1967. She was the second of four children born to Marvin and Annie Reeves. Jana had a sweet smile, warm heart, independent mind and forceful spirit.

She worked in the health care profession at Baptist Medical Center, Fleming Island. Jana graduated high school in 1985. Her most loved hobby was baking and

# **OBITUARIES**

decorating cakes.

And though she is sorely missed, our fondest memories will always be those that include her sweet laughter and contagious smile. Our great consolation is the hope we are given that she now resides in the presence of Our Lord.

She is survived by her three sons, Shawn Jr., Nick and Drew, whom she loved more than anything else; her parents Marvin and Annie Reeves; her siblings Frank (Bonnie) Reeves, Anne Chastain and Fred (Shari) Reeves; as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation was held Tuesday, August 17 at the residence of Marvin and Annie Reeves, in Middleburg. The funeral service was held Wednesday, August 18 in the Chapel of Callahan Funeral Home. Interment followed in Nathalene Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. callahanfh.com.

Arrangements by Callahan Funeral Home, Inc., 879-2336.

with those he loved most.

Spencer is survived by his parents Richard Griffis of Callahan; and Susan Ellis Griffis; his brother Jonathan; his grandmother Louise Williams of Callahan; his Uncle Dwight (Cindy) Griffis of Fernandina Beach; his Uncle Robert (Joey) Griffis of Jacksonville; his Aunt Cathy (John) Nusbaum; his Aunt Rebecca (Keith) Davidson; his Uncle David (Miriam) Laird; his dog Hank; and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandfather Leo Bentley Griffis; grandparents William Spencer and Sharon Ellis; and his aunt Deborah Sue Griffis.

A memorial service was held Saturday, August 14 at The Journey Church on Amelia Concourse Fernandina Beach. The family received friends prior to the service.

Green Pine Funeral Home assisted the family.

Condolences may be expressed at www. greenpinefuneral.com.

#### VIRGINIA 'GINNY' HARRISON



Virginia 'Ginny' Francis Mack Harrison, 47, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully August 10, 2021, due to ongoing health issues.

She was born on January 18, 1974 in Jacksonville to Ronald and Mary Mack. Ginny was married to her best friend and love of her life, Jimmy Harrison, Sr. and they shared 23 wonderful years together. The biggest joy in her life were her children and grandchildren. She always did her very best to love and take care them. Ginny was a social butterfly that loved people and had a heart of gold. She would do anything to help someone, even if it made it hard on herself. Ginny's life was a living example of the Bible verse Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."

Ginny is survived by her husband Jimmy Harrison, Sr.; children Brittany Mack, Bobby Mack and Jimmy Harrison, Jr.; sister Brenda (Jeff) Conklin; brothers Brian (Stacy) Mack and Ronald Mack, Jr.; grandchildren Woody, Keira, Casen and Maria; mother-in-law Barbara Harrison; sister-in-law Linda Harrison; several cousins, nieces, nephews and many close friends that she loved like family.

A celebration of Ginny's life was held Monday, August 16 at Nassau Funeral Home

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

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

#### GILBERT R. MACOMBER, JR.



Gilbert Ronald Macomber, Jr., 67, of Callahan, passed away on August 7, 2021. He was born on November 24, 1953 in Jacksonville, to

Gilbert R. Macomber, Sr. and Cora Lee Geoghagen Macomber. Gilbert was a very simple man. He was an industrial painter for about 40 years and took pride in his work. When Gilbert wasn't working, he liked to go fishing, sitting on the back porch watching nature and loved hearing his son sing karaoke. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his grandson, Gauge. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Barbara Macomber; sisters Phyllis L. Temple and Pamela Christine Dixon; brother-in-law Jack Waters.

Gilbert leaves behind his son Gilbert (Shannon) R. Macomber, III; brother William (Gail) Macomber; sister Mary Pat Waters; and a grandson Gauge Macomber.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, August 18 from 6-8 p.m. at



**SPENCER GRIFFIS** 

Susan (Ellis) Griffis. He was a 2015 graduate

of Yulee High School. Spencer attended

Tulsa Welding School in Jacksonville and

also worked as a Millwright. He recently

started his own business Griffis Water

Services. Although he was only 24 at the

time of his death, Spencer affected many

people in his lifetime. He was a fun loving,

sweet spirited person with a giant heart. He

loved operating heavy equipment, fishing,

hanging out at the pond with his friends,

cooking on his smoker and spending time

Spencer Aaron Griffis, 24,

of Fernandina Beach, passed

away on August 7, 2021. He

was born September 17, 1996

in Jacksonville to Richard and



# **OBITUARIES**

Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Gilbert's life will be held Thursday, August 19 at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Hughes Cemetery.

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

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

#### LOIS THOMPSON SAWYER



Lois Thompson Sawyer, 91, of Roddy, Georgia, passed away Sunday, August 8, 2021 at her home. Mrs. Sawyer was born in

Bleckley County, Georgia. She had lived in Callahan and Screven, Georgia, before moving to Roddy 15 years ago. She was the daughter of the late Monroe and Frederica Tripp Thompson. Mrs. Lois was a homemaker and a member of Roddy Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jim H. Sawyer; her sons Michael Ray Sawyer and Jimmy M. Sawyer; and her siblings Gladys Graham, Evelyn Zumwalt, Jewel Yearty, Arthur Thompson, Woodrow Thompson and James Thompson.

Survivors include her sons Mike (Deborah) Sawyer of Callahan and Chris (Joan) Sawyer of Valdosta, Georgia; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren; her sisters Pauline Mobley of Eastman, Georgia and Grace (Lem) Holland of Cochran, Georgia; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held Saturday, August 14 in the chapel of Mathis Funeral Home in Cochran, Georgia. Burial followed at Belflower Family Cemetery near Roddy.

#### **MARVIN LONIEL STOKES**

Marvin Loniel Stokes, 71, of Bryceville, went home to be with the Lord on August 11, 2021 at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside. He was born February 3, 1950 in Folkston,

Georgia to the late Loniel J. Stokes and Julia Higginbotham Stokes. Marvin was a lifelong resident of Bryceville and a faithful member of Brandy Branch Baptist Church. Marvin was a rancher and farmer at heart. He loved being outdoors herding cattle. Once done with work he would come inside and watch old Western shows on the TV. Marvin is preceded in death by his parents.

Marvin is survived by his loving sisters Marilyn Stokes and Mary Jo Stokes, both of Bryceville.

A celebration of Marvin's life was held Wednesday, August 18 at Brandy Branch Baptist Church with Pastor Deryle Adkison officiating. Interment followed at Brandy Branch Cemetery. The family received friends prior to service.

Pallbearers were Keith Whitty, Adam Higginbotham, Bobby Jones, Morgan Stokes, Ricky Powell and Bruce Travis. Honorary pallbearers were Maitland Dampier, Everett Pringle, Marvin White, and all the men of the church.

In Lieu of flowers please make donations to Brandy Branch Baptist Church Building Fund.

Arrangements by V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, Macclenny, (904) 259-5700.

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

# A Troubling Family Member

#### Douglas C. Pearson Sr.

At one point in time, the word "Family" meant everything to a community. It was a bond. It was strength. It was a promise, commitment if you will, that each member was important and responsible to do all it could do to perpetuate a good name as being worthy of trust and admiration. I had pride in my family and a dedication for its well-being. In addition, our entire family endeavored to continue the honored trust that was once held among those who knew us well.

But recently that trust and admiration has deteriorated to a point where many in our family are reluctant to not only commit to our ideals but to the premise that a good name needs to be cared for, much as a new born needs protection and nourishment. Indeed, many have opted to deny who they are now, let alone shy to make those required commitments for success.

When our names were mentioned it struck a realization that our brothers and sisters were not only responsible but would do exactly what they said they could do. Contracts were not needed or agreements made for expectations to be realized. The heads of the growing generations took their roles seriously and never did anything that might draw criticism, or even the slightest hint of impropriety that might compromise the integrity of our good name. At the same time the paternal instincts took over and taught the needed behaviors to the next generation that are demanded by an ever stressful life and environment.

But lately, and I'm sorry to admit this, my uncle has shamed our good name in the community. He had a responsible job in a leadership role, but recently has elected to ignore the rules and disciplines of that job. He was most admired by our neighbors, but his own convictions were weak and he took to an intoxicating habit that has everyone concerned about his addictions. As a result, his memories are failing. Memories, if recalled, would help to provide guidance for successful resolution of problems and reinstate the convictions and admiration of his peers and neighbors. But being drunk and not able to be accountable for his actions have put our entire family into the quagmire of gossip and mistrust that does nothing but destroy that once Good Name that folks could rely on. One person can destroy the entire legacy that was so hard to achieve.

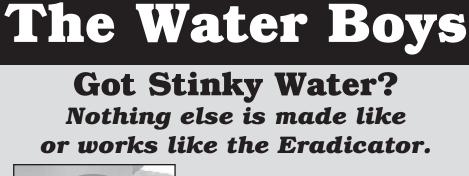
While reluctant to identify that uncle, I will confirm it as the gossips are already out there destroying our good name. Our Uncle Sam has eroded the rule of law; forgotten the lessons of the past and is drunk on the intoxication of setting himself above everyone else, while ignoring the welfare of his own family members. His vanity of telling all of us how to live, while ignoring his own advice, is setting us all up for a reality that none of us will be able to accept or avoid. Please pray for my uncle, as we all go down this road of uncertainty and dimming future. Now, more than ever, he needs the enlightening guidance of God.

Obituaries are published free of charge. They may be emailed to news@westsidejournal.net.

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# Westside Senior Center Looking Better!



With each week that passes, the Westside Senior Center gets a little closer to completion! Now the crews are working hard on putting the final touches on the roof. It has been fun watching the transformation of the old building to the new. It definitely looks much different than it did and I can't wait to see the finished product. I know our 'seniors' are eagerly waiting the day that they can all be together again playing games, singing and visiting with each other. At this point, there is no set time for completion of the center.





## Late Summer Garden Tips from Callahan Garden Club

August is one of the toughest months for our north Florida gardens. The heat hits its peak and rain and insects can be overwhelming. But we can keep our late summer garden looking great with these few tips:

• August is the time to divide perennial flowers such as daylily and ornamental grasses. Replant your divisions as soon as possible.

• Wage war on weeks, as summer winds down weeds start to produce thousands of seeds that will germinate in your garden next spring. The best time to weed is right after a rain when the soil is moist.

• Repot houseplants. August is the perfect time to move plants to a larger

pot and to refresh potting soil. Don't forget to check the drainage hole to ensure proper drainage.

The Garden Club of Callahan has been on our annual summer break. We will resume our regular monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 1. The Garden Club meets the first Wednesday of each month (September – May) at 10 a.m. The meetings are held at the Club House located at 45251 Fourth Avenue. Informative speakers at each meeting provide information on current trends in gardening. Visitors are always welcome! If you have an interest in gardening or horticulture, please join us. You will be inspired!

# Day of Community Service Sat., Aug. 28

The Northern District Union of churches (Mt. Pleasant, St. James, etc.) Day of Community Service

Saturday, August 28 • Callahan Winn Dixie parking lot • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Many service organizations will be represented including:

One Blood for blood donation; Barnabas Center with Covid-19 Vaccinations (Moderna); Nassau County Health Department with Covid-19 Vaccinations (Pfizer & JJ) for Children; School Supplies; Children's Hospital representative with information on Mental Health for youth; and much more!

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### JOE MICHAELS REALTOR 904-583-2662

ERA Fernandina Beach Realty Callahan Office - 542188 US Hwy. I JoeMichaels.era@gmail.com

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