

**Pray
to God for
Our Nation!**

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

**WARRIORS vs
Frederica Academy**
@ 7:30 p.m.

**FLASHES vs
Fernandina Beach**
@ 7 p.m.

VOLUME XXI ISSUE 3

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

THEN ASA CALLED TO THE LORD HIS GOD AND SAID, "LORD, THERE IS NO ONE LIKE YOU TO HELP THE POWERLESS AGAINST THE MIGHTY. HELP US, LORD OUR GOD, FOR WE RELY ON YOU, AND IN YOUR NAME WE HAVE COME AGAINST THIS VAST ARMY. LORD, YOU ARE OUR GOD; DO NOT LET MERE MORTALS PREVAIL AGAINST YOU." - 2 CHRONICLES 14:11

And the Winners are...

**Clerk of Circuit Court
and Comptroller
Mitch Keiter**



**Superintendent
of Schools
Kathy Knight Burns**



**Supervisor
of Elections
Janet H. Adkins**



**County Commissioner,
District 3
Jeff Gray**



**County Commissioner,
District 5
Klynt Farmer**



**Ocean, Highway & Port
Authority, District 1
Miriam R. Hill**



**Ocean, Highway & Port
Authority, District 2
Scott Moore**



**School Board Member,
District 2
Gail Cook**



**School Board Member,
District 4
Requires a Recount**



Kristi Simpkins Cindy Grooms

Tuesday's election results were close. Nassau County only had a 30% voter turn-out with 22,481 votes cast.

The closest race was for School Board District 4 with Kristi Simpkins winning with 10,173 votes to incumbent Cindy Grooms with 10,099 votes, a margin of only 74 votes. Per Florida Statutes, the Supervisor of Elections office, will do a recount for the District 4 seat on Saturday. Certification of the counts and the election will be held Monday, August 26.

Callahan Volunteer Fire Department Concerns

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of August. The meeting began with two Callahan residents wishing to address the council. The first, Ms. Jenny Ackerman, who lives on Robinwood Circle. "I have lived in Callahan for five years and I love it. I'm here to address code violations within Robinwood Circle and Brown Street," said Ackerman. "These violations range from mobile homes in disrepair to open trailers filled with debris, old campers and vehicles in yards, etc. There is also a retention pond that the fence is

broken and needs to be repaired before something happens. Some sidewalks have been repaired but not all. People, like me, like to get out and walk and it can be dangerous on the sidewalks. I'm not just a grumpy old woman, I love people and I love Callahan, but these things are an eyesore. I maintain my home and yard. I'm here to ask for your (council) help to have these things addressed and taken care of. These are truly town code violations." Ms. Ackerman provided pictures and a letter of her concerns to the mayor and council.

The second resident, Rachel Roberts,

who lives on Arline Road, addressed her concerns about the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) and began her message with her letter of resignation from the department. "Please accept my resignation as a member of the CVFD, where I have been a member for over two years. I have served as a career firefighter in metro sized departments and am fully aware of the State laws on certification for Fire Departments," said Roberts. "In January, we (CVFD) were told that the jobs for Chief and Assistant Chief would be posted and was not done so until April. I informed the clerk and Fire Commissioner Ken

Bass about the requirements, per Florida Statutes, for the positions. I have voiced my concerns about the lack of safety equipment and training for our personnel and no actions have been taken. In my two years, there has been no training. Two candidates, one certified and one not, applied for the Fire Chief position and in May interviews were held. The non-certified was chosen. I cannot, in good conscience, serve as a firefighter under a chief with no legitimate time in service."

Roberts provided a letter of resignation to the mayor and council
See 'Callahan' on page 2

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Callahan

Continued from page 1

and turned in her volunteer equipment promptly following the meeting.

The first order of business on the agenda was a presentation from Callahan Mayor Randy Knage. "We would like to recognize former council member, Mr. David Mellecker, for his 12 years of service to the Town of Callahan. "Mr. Mellecker was always present at meetings and always aware of the concerns of the town and its people," said Knage. "We could always count on you (Mellecker) to go above and beyond to learn about the issues that the town faced and do his due diligence to make our town better. For that we thank you for your service."

The following agenda item was a presentation from Sherri Mitchell,



Michelle and David Mellecker

Executive Director of the Nassau County Economic Development Board. "First, thank you for having me tonight. We (NCEDB) have been very busy working on bringing industry to Nassau County. As the Crawford Diamond draws closer to being finished, we have FPL that bought 1,800 acres of the Diamond. They placed a solar farm on 1400 acres and there are still 400 acres left for other industry and we have had many companies looking at the property," said Mitchell. "We are continuing to maintain the businesses we have and encouraging them to continue to grow here in Nassau County. There are new businesses coming right here in Callahan and more to come. We (NCEDB) appreciate the support of Callahan and ask for your continued support of \$2,500 this year."

The next agenda item was a presentation from Mr. Jari Edwards. "I'm here to tell you about my mother, Kay Raulerson Edwards. My mother was the greatest person to her family, school and town. She was always... all in! No matter what she did, she did it with all her heart. She passed away in 2019," said Edwards. "Her lifelong dream was to relieve the burden and expense from teachers to provide for their students, so they could just teach. I've started a foundation, NSEW

Foundation, which is North, South, East, West of the county. Her dream was to help all teachers throughout the entire county. Right now, my focus is on the west side. I plan to host fundraisers and events to raise money to provide for teachers each year. This year, my goal is \$200 per teacher and starting with Callahan Elementary School. I'm also asking for the town's support for this cause."

The next item concerned the town supporting the West Nassau Swim Team with a donation. Keith Whaley thanked the town for their support each year and graciously asked for it again. "The team has to rent time at the Hilliard pool and also the Jacksonville Aquatic Center to practice, as they don't have their own pool. We would appreciate any donation from the town," said Whaley.

"We will do a resolution at the next meeting concerning a donation for the swim team," said Council President Ken Bass.

John Hendricks, representing the West Nassau Historical Society, addressed the council concerning the upcoming Callahan Christmas Parade. "Yes, I know, this seems early but it will be here before we know it. We (WNHS) wanted to ask the town again for their

monetary support for the parade. The Christmas Parade and Craft Show will be held Saturday, December 7 at 11 a.m. This year's theme will be A Red, White and/or Blue Christmas! We have prepared a breakdown of items the town has provided in the past and hope for your support again," said Hendricks. "Also, we are asking for the use of the railbed, Saturday, November 16, Hobos, Tractors, Heroes Festival; Saturday, December 7 Christmas Craft Fair; and Saturday, March 29, 2025, Railroad Day Festival."

The final agenda item was the approval of the Callahan Volunteer Fire Chief. "Per the Florida Statue, if the Volunteer Fire Chief is a paid position the person must have their Fire I and II certifications," said Bass. "If they are not paid, they may hold the position of chief contingent on getting their Fire I certification within 1 year."

With many questions from the council, the council approved of Chris Wood to be the Volunteer Fire Chief, contingent on him achieving his Fire I Certification within one year.

The next meeting of the council will be Tuesday, September 3 at 7 p.m., due to the Labor holiday on Monday, September 2.

In the Kitchen... Microwave Mexican Rice

- 2 cups instant rice (such as Minute® Rice)
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup picante sauce (such as Pace® Picanté Sauce)
- 1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chiles
- 1/2 (1 oz.) envelope taco seasoning

Place minute rice, water, picante sauce, green chiles, and taco seasoning in a large microwave-safe baking dish. Stir until evenly combined. Microwave, uncovered, on High for 8 minutes. Let sit for 5 minutes to absorb liquid. Fluff with a fork and serve.

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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.

Great Job!

Dear Editor,

I must tell you how impressed, blessed, and happy we are to have reached out to Florida Coastal Construction & Roofing, Inc., located right here on the west side of Callahan. As I do not have a Google account to add a review there, I am reaching out here. We did not know if we would need a new roof or just repair. Three other companies had to wait until the following week just to give us estimates. Not only did Scott arrive the very same day we called, he was courteous, fair, honest, and kind. He was actually able to make the repair right then and there. Turns out it was a very minor repair and he handled it efficiently and kindly!

You just don't hear of companies nowadays that go above and beyond what is required of them. Florida Coastal Construction & Roofing, Inc. absolutely puts their customers as top priority and I would recommend them to each and every one of you if you ever have any type of roofing or other construction need! And who doesn't love to support their very own local businesses? Callahan is known for supporting each other in the community. I know we will use this local business for all of our future needs. I have already recommended them to a co-worker. Their office is located at 542752 US 1 N in Callahan and you won't

meet a nicer person than Laurie Anne, the owner. Thank you, Scott and Laurie Anne! We appreciate you so much!

Gene and Pam Jones

Just My Opinion, Thanks

Dear Editor,

Good afternoon, I look forward to receiving my copy of the Westside Journal every Thursday. The paper offers a variety of news and current events. What I am very impressed with and look forward to reading is Roger West's "Just My Opinion" section. Mr. West is right on target with his opinion. I am a retired Law Enforcement Officer (33 yrs. with JSO; and 10 years with the State of Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco) and have seen and experienced the ugliest of this world and sincerely believe if we don't get it right this election year, we will have to live in the new and accepted Transformation of America (Obama) society.

The only reason people hate President Trump is not because they know him personally, but because they are told and indoctrinated to hate President Trump from the left liberal Trump hating media. What a wonderful world it would be if the media would just report the truth. "Just My Opinion"

Buddy Hayes

GET HELP NOW!



If you love someone struggling with drug or alcohol use, you may feel alone and unsure where to turn for help. That is where Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) can help. PAL weekly meetings provide a structured, evidence-based curriculum to give you the tools you need to encourage your loved one's recovery without enabling their

addiction. Equally important is the opportunity to network with other parents and loved ones struggling with the same issues, for support and fellowship. The free and confidential meetings are held on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Florida Baptist Association in Yulee; and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. Come and learn new ways to deal with your loved ones and gain a better understanding of addiction.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

I was thinking the other day as to why people can't see what is going on in our country. Everything is so visible. Then I thought, it's the same way with Jesus. He is so visible, so available, yet so many people have the same problem of not seeing Him. We are a blinded society that focuses on just the things of the present that gives us pleasure. So many have lost the ability to see tomorrow and plan for it, even though it's not promised. One still has to look ahead just because it may come.

With that being said, we all need to fully analyze what we want as a country for tomorrow. I'm speaking as the future, if it comes. Say you have only one son, and he is in the military and war breaks out. Who would you feel better as the Commander in Chief, Kamala/Walz or Trump/Vance? For me, the answer is very clear. I can't even imagine the cackling Kamala making decisions that affects my son and my country.

Kamala was asked a question concerning the economy by a reporter. Following is the question and Kamala's response: Reporter: What are you going to do to fix this problem with inflation? Kamala: "Thank you. Well let's start with this. Prices have gone up and families and individuals are dealing with the realities of, of this. That bread costs more, that gas costs more. And we have to understand what that means. That's about the cost of living going up. That's about having to stress and stretch limited resources, Aka budgeting. That's about a source of stress for families that is not only economics, but is on a daily level. Something that is a heavy weight to carry. So, it is something that we take

very seriously, very seriously. And we know from the history of this issue in the United States that when you see these prices go up it has a direct impact on the quality of life for all people in our country. So, it's a big issue and we take it seriously."

As said somewhat in a movie, we are all now more stupid from reading her response. Ahh but wait, her intelligence goes much farther. There are more genius phrases, "You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you." (?) "The importance of having a president who understands the power of Diplomacy and understands the strength that rests and understanding significance of diplomacy and strengthening alliances is this is incredible day." (?) "It's on your laptop and it's then therefore up here in this cloud that exists above us. Right? (wow?) "I believe that when we talk about the children of the community, they are the children of the community." (yep?) "Talking about the significance of the passage of time, right, the significance of the passage of time, so when you think about it there is great significance to the passage of time in terms of what we need to do to lay these wires, what we need to do to create these jobs and there is such great significance to the passage of time when we think about a day in the life of our children."

I have to stop; I can't take anymore! Choose wisely, my friends, our country depends on us.

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

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The Silence Is Broken

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



In the last article, we completed our overview of the Old Testament. Between the Testaments there are 400 years of silence. The Old Testament covered 4,000 years of history and the New Testament will only cover 100 years of history (6 BC-95 AD). The New Testament was anticipated in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament we saw Christ concealed and in the New Testament we will Christ revealed. In the Old Testament, Christ was anticipated. In the New Testament, Christ is manifested and proclaimed.

The first books in the New Testament are called the Gospels. A gospel is not a biography of Jesus. A biography would tell you everything about the life the Christ. The Gospels tell us about the birth of Jesus, then one verse is given to what Jesus did when he was 12 years old, and then speak of the last three years of Jesus' life. The Gospels are selective and purposeful collections of the good news of Jesus' sinless life, sacrificial death, and triumphant resurrection. The Gospels do not satisfy our curiosity about the entirety of Jesus' life, the Gospels give us the good news of Jesus' life and ministry and why Jesus is most important figure in history.

• **The Gospel of Matthew:** Matthew was one of the 12 apostles. Matthew was a Jew writing to Jews to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and promises. Jesus is presented as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham (Matt.1:1). Matthew's gospel can be summarized as follows: Jesus is revealed (1-9), resisted (10-18), rejected (19-27), and resurrected (28).

• **The Gospel of Mark:** Mark was not an apostle, but he was a companion of Peter. Mark is the oldest and shortest Gospel. Mark presents the good news about Jesus to Gentile audience highlighting most important facts regarding Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Mark's dominant portrayal of Jesus is the Suffering Servant (Mark 10:45). The Gospel of Mark begins with an introduction (1), summarizes the ministry of Christ (2-8:30), and concludes with the Passion of Christ (8:31-16).

• **The Gospel of Luke:** Like Mark, Luke was not an apostle. Luke was a traveling companion of Paul. Luke was a historian who carefully constructed a summary of Jesus' life and ministry. Luke arranges his Gospel around a travel narrative of Jesus' time on earth. In (1-4:13), Luke introduces us to Jesus and then he proceeds to show us Jesus' ministry in Galilee (4:14-9:50), Jesus' ministry en route to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27), and concludes with Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem (19:28-24).

• **The Gospel of John:** John was an apostle who wrote his gospel in order to prove that Jesus was the Son of God and by believing in Jesus, we could have life in his name (John 20:30-31). John's Gospel is absolutely fascinating as he presents Jesus as the Son of God (John 1:1). John's Gospel is composed of an introduction (1), the book of signs (2-11), and the book of glory (12-21).

BIBLICAL CITIZENSHIP CLASSES OFFERED LOCALLY

In America today, we are bombarded with philosophies that so deter from the America we grew up in. It is imperative that the Judeo-Christian ideals of the by-gone years be brought to the fore-front.



Throughout our history, American pastors have played a vital role in the establishment and preservation of our religious and civil liberties. Being "salt and light" requires knowledge of the culture we are attempting to preserve. Being Biblical Citizens requires a knowledge of Biblical principles and how to apply them to the world around us.

It is vital that we see the intrinsic link between Biblical citizenship and societal citizenship. Biblical Citizenship is a FREE course specifically designed to deliver a tool that is easy to understand, with captivating and impactful information about our forefathers and their desire to have a country guided by Biblical principles. It is an educational and inspiring walk through our founding

heritage via the Bible and our founding documents. We will learn how a Biblical worldview shaped the very foundation of the place we call home...the United States of America?

If you are compelled to learn more about our history, please consider attending the Biblical Citizenship Class. The classes will be held on Wednesdays for 8 weeks beginning September 4 at 6:30 p.m. at The Bridge Family Worship Center, 85031 Landover Drive in Yulee, centrally located in Nassau County. To attend, please register at: www.PatriotAcademy.com, click on Biblical Citizenship, find a class, future start dates and search by state. It is imperative that you register online to have an accurate account of those attending.

Feel free to share this information and invite family and friends. Turning Point USA is partnering to provide free workbooks. For more information, call Lynda at 904-302-2498. See their ad on page 7.



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Hilliard to Increase Water and Sewer Rates

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final regular meeting of August. Callahan businessman and resident Paul Schwend wished to address the council. "I just want to thank each of you for your hard work and participation with the Fireworks event," said Schwend. "We worked hard but it was a great event. Each time I visit Hilliard or the council I am greeted so warmly. It's like we are all family. It's good to see the 'westside' sticking together."

The first item was a public hearing and Second and Final Reading on Ordinance 2024-05. The Ordinance concerns the council to consider regulating the Water and Sewer Usage Rates in accordance with the Town Charter Section 4.11 (5) Action Requiring an Ordinance; and further stated in Chapter 58 Utilities of the Town Code; which states that the Town Council shall conduct annually a review of charges and fees; and water and sewer rates shall increase annually using the Municipal Cost Index.

The Public Hearing was open for public comment. Hilliard resident John Russell approached the podium. "I'm not in favor of a water/sewer increase, again. I voted against this last time too. I know other residents feel the same however, they feel as I do, that it will pass anyway," said Russell. "If you (council) allowed more corporations and companies in the town, they could help defray the cost."

"We have not turned any companies away from coming to Hilliard," said Councilman Jared Wollitz. "None of us up here like to increase any rates or taxes."

"Mr. Russell, I completely understand what you are saying. I'm sure you traveled on Pine Street when it was closed recently," said Councilman Kenny Sims. "Just that one manhole and line replacements cost \$203,000. And we have others that are close to needing repair."

"I would like for us to have another store. Callahan is getting a new Tractor Supply with two others only 15 - 20 minutes away," added Russell. "I would love another grocery store. I travel 100 miles each week to go to Walmart."

The council approved the increase. "On the base rate of water and sewer, the average bill will only be about .50 cents more per month," added Town Clerk Lisa Purvis.

The increase will not go into effect until the October billing.

The next order of business was a presentation by Sherri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Nassau County Economic Development Board. "Thank you for making room for me on your agenda tonight. The NCEDB has been around for 30 years. We work with county leaders and local officials throughout Nassau County," said Mitchell. "Nassau County has recently been named the 7th fastest growing county in Florida, out of 67 counties. Our continued focus is Business Retention Expansion, which focuses on keeping businesses here!"

"We all see the businesses moving into Callahan but we need some and ours may be a smaller group but a necessary need for people," said Wollitz. "My parents are aging and they have to travel

to Jacksonville to have blood drawn or to an imaging center. Why can't we attract a LabCorp in Hilliard? We (Hilliard) also have two nursing homes and a mental facility. We can surely use a medical facility here."

"We're a value-added service at the NCEDB. I suggest you (council and/or residents) make a wish list of businesses, industries, facilities, you would like to see in Hilliard," added Schwend, who is also on the NCEDB board.

The next agenda item, the council approved the Architectural & Engineering Services Firm of PQH Group for the Hurricane/Community Shelter Project. A workshop was set for Monday, August 26 at 6 p.m. to negotiate the cost.

The next item concerned the council approval to proceed with the Florida Commerce Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant application for the FAA Water Main Extension Project, which will cover 100% of the infrastructure needs of the project. The engineering services portion will be paid by the town's State Recovery Funds of \$200,000.

The council approved of the Capital Purchase of the Aerzen Turbo Blower & Package for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester in the amount of \$27,540.18. "This is a crucial part of the plant. Should one go out, we have a back-up," said Interim Public Works Director Corey Hobbs.

The council approved the request for an additional Parks & Recreation Department staff member for the new position of Program Manager. "As

quickly as our programs continue to grow, I think this is a necessary employee," said Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg. "We have several new subdivisions being built and people moving in which allows for our program to continue to grow."

The council approved the purchase of a 125' x 25' parcel located on Georgia Street at West Seventh Avenue for \$2,000. The property has a drainage ditch on it.

The council approved the Town Clerk's recommendation to fill the Administrative Assistant vacant position with Mr. Luke Headington with a starting salary of \$19.60/per hour.

The council approved a payable of \$2,500 to Cantrell Ray Real Estate, LLC, for Project Name: Acquire land on the north side of the Hilliard Airpark.

The council approved two payables to Mittaurer & Associates, Inc. for (1) Project Name: Oxford Street Force Main Rerouting in the amount of \$1,380; and (2) Project Name: WWTP Permit Renewal in the amount of \$360.

The council approved a pay request for TB Landmark Construction, Inc. for Project Name: Oxford Street Force Main Rerouting in the amount of \$26,766.25.

The council approved a payable for TB Landmark Construction, Inc. for Project Name: Emergency Manhole Repair at Pine Street and Shady Lane in the amount of \$203,937.18.

In closing comments, Mayor John Beasley reminded everyone that Friday, August 30 will be the final Food Truck Friday of the summer. The time will be 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall Park.

The next meeting of the council will be September 5 at 7 p.m.



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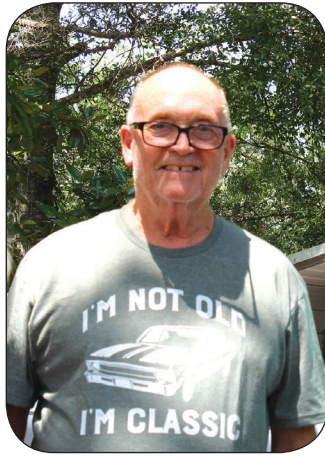
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New Beginnings and Milestones

Paul Stephens Celebrates 78th Birthday

Paul Stephens, of Hilliard, celebrated his 78th birthday August 17. He was surprised on his 78th birthday and also his retirement with a surprise party held in his honor last Saturday, August 17, at his home.

His wife Gloria also surprised him with a visit from his brother Charles and daughter Kristy from North Carolina with lots of friends joining in the fun! This is the first time the brothers have been together in 14 years. About 20 family and friends enjoyed food, fellowship and yard games! Many thanks, hugs and love to everyone who celebrated his special day!



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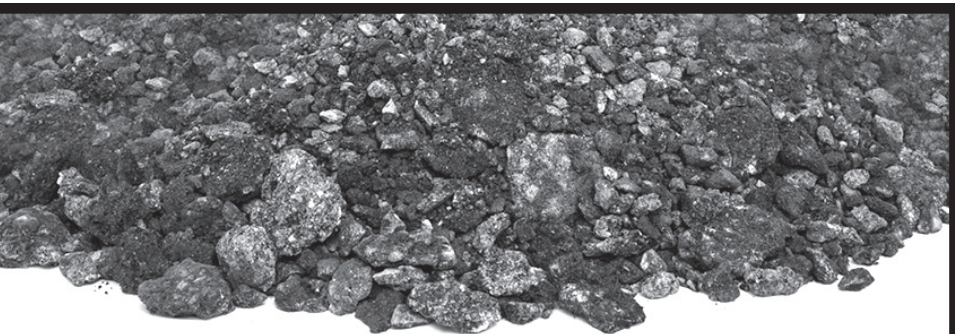
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Callahan, Florida

OREMC's Young Members Invited to Participate in Art Contest

Okefenoke REMC is celebrating its 85th birthday in 2024 and is inviting its youngest members to join in the fun with an art contest. This is a chance for children to reflect on how electricity powers their lives every day, electrical safety, to honor line workers who restore power and/or maybe inspire them to work for OREMC one day.

Children 12 and under, whose parents/guardians are consumer-members of OREMC, are encouraged to use the OREMC art contest form to create original artwork in the circle. Winning entries will receive four tickets to the October 6 Jacksonville Jaguars game, and have their artwork turned into stickers to be handed out at school events and be featured on our co-op Christmas card. Prizes will be awarded to the winner in each of three age groups: 5 and under, 6-9 and 10-12. "Eighty-

five years ago 'bringing the lights' was life changing to our members, but this generation has never known life without electricity, electronics or internet,"

explains OREMC Director of Communications & Marketing Michele Hutchins. "We thought it would be fun to give our youngest members the space to reflect on the importance of electricity and the people behind the power. We're excited to see what they come up with."

Entry forms are available online at www.oremc.com/news/art-contest or stop in one of our offices in Nahunta, Kingsland or Hilliard to ask for one. Submitted entries must be completely filled out and received by Friday, September 6. They can be dropped off at one of our offices or mailed to Attn: Michele Hutchins, OREMC, PO Box 602, Nahunta, Ga. 31553.



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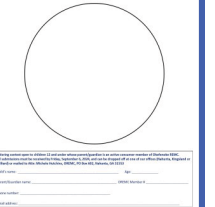
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- Children 12 and under, whose parents/guardians are members of OREMC, are encouraged to use the OREMC art contest form to create original artwork in the circle.
- Winning entries will receive four tickets to the Jacksonville Jaguars October 6 game, and have their artwork turned into stickers to be handed out at school events and be featured on our co-op Christmas card.
- Prizes will be awarded to the winner in each of three age groups: 5 and under, 6 to 9 and 10 to 12.



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Warriors Lose in Close Game



Maegyn LaCross

Coach Waylon Cox

The West Nassau High School Warriors opened their football season by traveling to Jacksonville to take on the Paxon Eagles and came back short by a score of 22-20. It was a beautiful August night. The Warriors started with the ball and had a nice drive going before losing a fumble at the Paxon 5 yard line. Paxon responded with a 93-yard touchdown run two plays later. The Warriors responded with a 43-yard touchdown pass from Pryce Arnold to Skyler Freeman.

The Eagles answered by returning the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown and regained the lead by a score of 14-6. The Warriors weren't finished though, as Pryce Arnold connected with Avery Griffin for a 46-yard touchdown to bring the score to 14-12 at halftime.

The Warriors were able to capture the lead in the third quarter after a long drive with a mixture of runs, capped off by a 2-yard touchdown run from Skyler Freeman. The Warriors had their first lead of the game at 20-14. The Eagles would regain

the lead in the 4th quarter and never relinquish it to finish the game at 22-20.

The Warriors were led on the ground by senior Sean Middleton, with 19 carries for 127 yards; Andi Ataiza with 7 carries for 65 yards; and Skyler Freeman with 13 carries for 47 yards and a touchdown. Avery Griffin had 1 reception for 46 yards and a touchdown; Grady Stevens had 1 reception for 20 yards; and Colby Gay had 1 reception for 10 yards. Pryce Arnold was 4 of 7 passing for 119 yards and 2 touchdowns.

The Warriors were led defensively by senior linebacker Garrett Rica with 9 tackles; Fisher Johnson and Nash Batrous both had 7 tackles, while Johnson also added a fumble recovery. Freshman Kayden Thompson had 5 tackles with 3 for a loss and Bryce Mangum had 3 tackles and a forced fumble.

This week, the Warriors will return to action Friday at home against Frederica Academy with a 7:30 p.m. kick off!

Go Warriors!



Maegyn LaCross

Flashes Fall in Preseason Action

Coach Matthew Yancey

Hilliard's first action of the season got off to a rough start against Episcopal. The game which was originally scheduled as home contest was moved to Jacksonville due to field conditions at Hilliard. The host Eagles took advantage of multiple Hilliard mistakes, in route to a 38-13 victory.

The game, which served as a critical preparation for the upcoming season, highlighted several areas needing improvement for the Flashes. Despite some promising plays, Hilliard struggled significantly with ball security, committing five turnovers throughout the game, four in the first half. These mistakes were costly, allowing the Eagles to capitalize and convert on multiple scoring opportunities, including a 38-yard pass to close out the first half.

A promising drive looked to put the Flashes up early, but a fumble on third down inside the Eagles' 15 yard line, kept the score knotted at zero. Episcopal took the ensuing drive 77 yards capped off by a 13-yard run by Josiah Williams.



Unable to get much going offensively, Hilliard got a spark in the return game. Midway through the second quarter Camauri Bolden raced 68 yards to put the Flashes within one. On the next Eagles possession, the Hilliard defense fought hard and forced an Eagles punt. On second down the following series, Hilliard again put the ball on the ground. The Eagles capitalized on the short field to go up 14-6.

Late in the first half, Hilliard committed its fourth turnover on a deep heave on 4th down. The Eagles marched down the field and scored to go up 24-6 at halftime.

The Flashes cut the score to 24-13 following an Ethan Garland interception. Late in the third quarter Episcopal held Hilliard on a 4th down attempt and put up another rushing touchdown to extend the lead to 31-13. Episcopal scored late in the game for a final score of 38-13.

The Flashes open up the regular season this Friday on Flashes Field against the Fernandina Beach Pirates with a 7 p.m. kick-off.

Go Flashes!



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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.

Thursday, August 15

Benjamin James Cooper, IV, Callahan: Use 2-Way Communication Device; Introducing Contraband into Jail Facility; Attempts, Solicitation and Conspiracy; Sale of Methamphetamine

Saturday, August 17

Joseph Benjamin Calloway, 30, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

John Clyde Davis, 52, Hilliard: Battery Cause Bodily Harm

NCCOA September Classes in Yulee!

Nassau County Council on Aging (NCCOA) and the Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) – Nassau Center are offering three new classes for the Yulee-Wildlight area, beginning in September at FSCJ's Nassau Center, 76346 William Burgess Blvd, Yulee. Each class is \$5.

Advance registration and payment required before class begins. Contact Melody Dawkins at 904-775-5477 or Traci Canada at 904-775-5496.

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SALLY STOCKS BATTEN



Mrs. Sally Stocks Batten, 84, of Hilliard, passed away Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in Fernandina Beach. She was born November 6, 1939 in Old Dock, North Carolina, to the late Matthew Gaston Stocks and Oneta Formyduval Stocks. She started her career as a Librarian with Florida Junior College, the Callahan Library and retired from the Hilliard Library in 2003 with over 20 years of combined service. She was instrumental in acquiring the funding from the State of Florida for the new Hilliard Library. Mrs. Sally was a faithful member of the Hilliard First Baptist Church. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by seven brothers.

She is survived by her husband of almost 63 years, Earl Batten; two children Matthew Earl Batten and Natalie Jeanne (Doug) Lee; three grandchildren Robert Batten, Matthew Lee and Madison Lee; brother Jack Stocks; and a numerous extended family members and friends.

The family received friends Sunday, August 18 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, 526 Oakwood Street, Folkston. Funeral services were held Monday, August 19 at Hilliard First Baptist Church with Rev. Ryan Mason officiating. Burial followed in Oakwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Friends of Hilliard Library, PO Box 951, Hilliard, FL 32046; or Community Hospice - Warner Center, 1348 S. 18th Ste. 101, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

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

OBITUARIES

ANNIE MUSGROVE GROOMS



Susie Avieann "Annie" Musgrove Grooms, 82, of Jacksonville, passed away peacefully August 17, 2024. Ann was born March 12, 1942, to the late Ollie and Susie Knight Musgrove in Hilliard. Ann was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to many who loved her graciously. She spent most of her life being a housewife, taking care of the kids every need, from baseball to softball, football, cheerleading and dancing. You could always find Ann at the Turtle Creek Ball Park rooting for her kids and the many neighborhood kids whom she thought of as her own. On rainy school days, Ann would load up all the neighborhood kids and take them to and from school so they would not have to walk in the bad weather. When you visited Ann's home, you always felt loved and welcomed, and you could be sure she would try to feed you.

Ann was a wonderful cook and knew a million things about gardening. That was her passion, working in the garden growing vegetables and tending to her flowers and plants. Ann could make anything grow and make anything taste like a million dollars. She also worked for a short time for Duval Federal in the mail room. Everyone who knew Ann, "Annie" as most called her, just fell in love with her kind heart and peaceful spirit. Ann would surprise you with her quick wit at times, she could be quite comical. Ronnie used to call her "Chicken Catching Annie," because in her younger days she would have to catch the chickens

in the mornings before going to school.

She also loved to fish. If it was a beautiful day, she would gather up whomever she could, including neighborhood kids and go fishing out at Browns Creek or the old HA-HA Hole at FCCJ. It didn't matter if she even caught anything, fishing brought her peace and joy. You always saw some type of animal in the Grooms household: birds, fish, dogs. Ann had something about her that the animals just adored her. She spoiled her animals, especially her beloved Waggles. You know they were spoiled when she would go through the drive thru at Dairy Queen just to get waggles an ice cream cone.

Ann's grandkids brought her so much joy, they meant the world to her. She was very proud of them and wished that she could have done a lot more things with them, like ride roller coasters at Busch Gardens (she loved the thrill of roller coasters), before her health deteriorated so quickly. When she received special gifts, art or cards from them, her face would light up the whole room. She treasured her grandkids.

Ann loved all who crossed her path, and she touched the lives of so many. She was such a humble soul and very strong in her Christian faith. Jesus was her Lord and Savior, and you could find her a lot of times reading her Bible and Christian books.

Along with her parents; Ann was preceded in death by her loving husband of 61 years, Ronnie Grooms; sisters Wanda Bercaw, Audrey Dixon, Dorothy Haddock and Evelyn Dinkins; brothers Richard Musgrove, Drady Musgrove, Buddy Musgrove, A.J. Musgrove, Mitchell Musgrove, Floyd Musgrove and Alton Musgrove.

Ann is survived by her children Brenda (Gabriel) Ferreira, Denise Grooms, Ronnie Grooms, Lori (Damon) Foskey; brother Freeman Musgrove; grandchildren Brian Grooms, Michael Ferreira and Reagan Ferreira; along with many nieces, nephews and other relatives. A special lovingly thank you to her caregiver and wonderful friend, Mrs. Geraldine White and to Nicole McHale who was her neighbor and whom Ann thought of like a daughter.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Friday, August 23 prior to the celebration of life service at 11 a.m. at

Nassau Funeral Home with Brian Peters officiating. Interment will follow at Buford Grove Cemetery, Hilliard. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Jacksonville Humane Society in honor of Ann, who loved all animals.

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

Condolences may be expressed at: www.nassaufh.com.

LAWRENCE WILSON MOODY



Lawrence Wilson Moody, 80, of Callahan, passed away peacefully August 17, 2024, in Fernandina Beach. He was born December 7, 1943 in Jacksonville, to the late Richard Moody and Omie Lawson Moody.

A proud Veteran, Lawrence served in the United States Marine Corps, a reflection of his commitment and love for his country. He spent his life embracing the joys of the open road on his beloved motorcycle. Lawrence cherished moments watching his children and grandchildren play softball games at Highlands Little League. An avid reader, Lawrence easily became captivated in the pages of a good novel and took pleasure in playing solitaire on his laptop. He was a fan of Westerns, often found watching them on TV, immersing himself in the tales of the old frontier.

Above all, Lawrence loved his family profoundly, a love that was evident in every aspect of his life and the legacy he leaves behind. His presence will be missed tremendously but warmly remembered by all who knew him. Lawrence is preceded in death by his parents.

Lawrence leaves behind his loving wife Earlene Hartsfield Moody; daughters Melissa (Wayne) Fowler and Ellen (Holly) Hamilton; sisters Edith Crews and Dorothy Hunt; grandchildren Tiffany Raynor, Amanda Popp, John Taylor, Bobby Brooks, Tyler Brooks, Robin Fowler, Wayne Fowler, Rosa Fowler, Richard Fowler, Hayden Fowler, Russell Fowler, Melissa Fowler, Chris Raynor and Mark Popp; great-grandchildren Savanna, Merlin, Lenora, William, Trey, Leland, Brantley, Rozlyn, Christopher, Abigail and Isabella.

The family received friends Wednesday, August 21 at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Lawrence's life was held Thursday, August 22 at Nassau

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Several plans and payment options are available to fit every need. If you would like to discuss arrangements or have any questions, we encourage you to contact us.

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Funeral Home with Pastor Danny Baggett officiating. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery where military honors were rendered.

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

Condolences may be expressed at: www.nassaufh.com.

CLEVELAND COLE REED



Cleveland Cole Reed, 81, of Hilliard, passed away Tuesday, August 20, 2024. He was born December 11, 1942 in Hilliard, to the late Coyle Reed, Sr. and Vera Prevatt Reed. He proudly served his country in the US Army during the Vietnam Conflict.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by seven brothers Bobby Reed, Donald Reed, Carroll Reed, Coyle Reed, Jr, Dallas Reed, Beverly Reed and Glen Reed; five sisters Alene Morris, Inez Hannah, Vernell Henderson, Althea Rice and Frances Rodenbarger.

He is survived by his son Mike (Amberlea) Reed; two grandchildren Cole (Kayla) Reed and Alexis Reed; three great-grandchildren Kayden Reed, Cayman Reed and Paxton Reed; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. prior to the funeral service Friday, August 23 at 2 p.m. in the Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

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

OBITUARIES

BERTA LOU SIKES



Berta Lou Sikes, 96, of Hilliard, passed away Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at her home. She was born February 12, 1928 in St. Augustine, to the late Leon Andrew Perpall and Nettie Conner Reeves. She loved gardening and was an excellent cook. A true southern lady, she was always made up, head to toe. She was a member of Nathalene Primitive Baptist Church in Hilliard. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband Roy Addison Sikes, Sr.; a great-grandson Rhett Sikes; two sisters Mary Jean Taylor and Esma Perpall Poole; three brothers J.L. Reeves, Wiley Reeves and Leon Perpall.

She is survived by her children Annette Sikes Lawson and Roy (Lilah) Sikes, Jr.; two grandchildren R.A. Sikes and Natasha (Gary) Raulerson; two great-grandchildren Brent Sikes and Colton Raulerson; brother Marvin Reeves; and a number of extended family members and friends.

The family received friends Friday, August 16, at Mrs. Sikes' home. Funeral services were held Saturday, August 17 at Nathalene Primitive Baptist Church. Burial followed at Mill Creek Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.srfhcallahan.com.

Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home-Callahan Chapel, 617365 Brandies Avenue, Callahan, was honored to serve the Sikes family.

RAYMOND BLAIN SNYDER



Raymond Blain Snyder, 86, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, August 15, 2024, in Jacksonville, following a brief illness. He was born January 30, 1938 in Jacksonville, to the late Blain and Lucille Snyder. Mr. Snyder proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by a grandson Matthew McCollum, Jr.; and a brother Cecil Snyder.

He is survived by his children Kim (Matt) McCollum, Steve Snyder, Michael Snyder and Jenny Snyder; grandson Vincent McCollum; great-granddaughter Brylee McCollum; and sister Patricia Campbell.

Condolences may be expressed at www.shepardrobersonfh.com.

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

was blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who she adored and were the light of her life. She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Gray Gables where she enjoyed attending, praising, and worshipping her Lord and Savior. Jackie treasured the relationship she had with her church family. An avid reader, Jackie found joy and solace in the pages of books, which were her companions through various phases of her life. Her warm presence and loving nature will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Jackie is preceded in death by her parents; sons Harley W. Frost and Lonnie "Sonny" D. Frost; brothers Tom Nugent and David Nugent; sister Evelyn Harper; and granddaughter Samantha Edmondson.

Jackie leaves behind her loving husband, Elton Steptoe; children Kimberly (Samuel) Houston, Tracy Yoder and Tammy (Matt) Holiday; brother Vincent Nugent; sisters Helen Rayfield and Mickey Tomberlin; grandchildren Samuel Houston, Harley (Kelsey) W. Frost, Jr., Cayla Renee Davis (Jacob Doyle, Sr.), James Wade Houston, Aubrey Stinchcomb, Ryan Yoder, Caylee Setzer and Madelyn Holiday; great-grandchildren Andrew J. Edmondson, Micah J. Edmondson, Kimberlee J. Edmondson, Samuel J. Edmondson, Shaela Glover-Brown, Caiden Davis, Jacob Doyle, Jr., Harley Wade Frost, III, Hadley Christine Frost, Hazley Nicole Frost, Nyleigh McKinzie Stinchcomb, Maliyah Renee Houston and Nevaeh Turner; brother-in-law Wayne (Debbie) Malone; sister-in-law Mary Jane Sprinkle; and many extended family members and friends.

A celebration of Jackie's life was held Monday, August 19 at the First Baptist Church of Gray Gables with Pastor Cody Page officiating. Interment followed at Riverside Memorial Park. The family received friends prior to the service.

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

JACQUELINE STEPTOE



Jackeline "Jackie" Steptoe, 81, of Callahan, passed away August 9, 2024. She was born June 27, 1943, in Waycross, Georgia to the late Walter Nugent and Estelle Lott Nugent. Jackie dedicated two decades of her life to serving as a Home Health Aide, a testament to her nurturing and caring nature. She was not only a devoted professional but also a loving wife to Elton Steptoe and a cherished mother and grandmother. Jackie's life was marked by a beautiful love story that began in high school with Elton. Though their paths diverged when Elton entered the service, fate reunited them, leading to their marriage on September 20, 1997. Jackie

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This summer, 36 West Nassau High School's AFJROTC cadets attended the #1 Leadership Camp in the United States, at The Citadel in South Carolina, hosting 320 cadets from over 20 schools.

Cadet Gaby Love was selected as Vice Wing Commander, the second highest position. Cadet Colhton Moore earned the Outstanding Cadet, putting him #1 over 125 cadets. Cadet Brianna Gancerez was awarded the Fleet Foot award for having the fastest female first-year mile. Cadets Brianna Gancerez, Colton Horton, Colhton Moore, and Kory Moser all placed within the top 10% of cadets as distinguished graduates. Cadet Charles Owens



Braxton Lee, Brody Rowell, Jason Wood, Kolton Wright, and Brianna Wyman, each graduated from this prestigious program. Congratulations!



Cadet Gaby Love



Cadet Brianna Gancerez

for the drill evaluations. All the cadets earned their Cadet Leadership Course Ribbon and many other awards.

We also had seven cadets selected to attend the National Flight Academy. The cadets attended five prestigious colleges across the US for 8 weeks. The program is designed for those selected to earn their Private Pilot's License. Cadets Kody Doran, Chase Gester,



Cadet Colhton Moore

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