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WESTSIDE JOURNAL

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

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vs. Branford
@ 7:00 p.m.



WARRIORS
@ Hamilton County
@ 7:30 p.m.



VOLUME XXI ISSUE 6

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

"LET THE MORNING BRING ME WORD OF YOUR UNFAILING LOVE, FOR I HAVE PUT MY TRUST IN YOU.
SHOW ME THE WAY I SHOULD GO, FOR TO YOU I ENTRUST MY LIFE." - PSALM 143:8

Hilliard Approves Rezoning of 37.35 Acres

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their first meeting of September. The first six items of business were Public Hearings. The first was Ordinance 2024-07 which concerned Amending the Hilliard Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map designation consisting of 16.32 acres, more or less; located on the east side of US Highway 1 and south of Cosmos Trail; adding a designation of Commercial. The council approved the ordinance on Second & Final Reading.

The next, Ordinance 2024-08 concerned Changing the Zoning Designation from Nassau County Zoning Open Rural to Town Zoning C-1, General Commercial District; for the 16.32 acres, located on the east side of US Highway 1 and south of Cosmos Trail. This property is owned by the Hilliard First Assembly of God. The council approved the ordinance on Second & Final Reading.



The next, Ordinance 2024-09 concerned Amending the Hilliard Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map Designation of that certain property consisting of 21.03 acres, located on the east side of US Highway 1 at Cosmos Trail, and adding the designation of Commercial and High Density Residential. This property is proposing to develop a PUD parcel

with a maximum of 227 multi-family residential units (apartments) with related amenities and facilities and a maximum of 14,000sf of Main Street Commercial and General Commercial District Uses. The council approved the ordinance on Second & Final Reading.

The next, Ordinance 2024-10 concerned Changing the Zoning Designation from Nassau County Zoning Open Rural to Town Zoning PUD (Planned Unit Development) for the property located on the east side of US Highway 1 and south of Eastwood Road. The council approved the ordinance on Second & Final Reading.

The next, Ordinance 2024-11 concerned setting the Town of Hilliard Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, advising the Nassau County Property Appraiser of the 'Rolled Back Rate' and of the final adopted Millage Rate. The millage was set at 3.2500 mills, however the council requested that the budget not be

built around the full 3.2500 Millage Rate revenues. The council approved the rate of 3.2500 mills. The Second and Final Reading will be held Friday, September 20.

The final ordinance was Ordinance 2024-12 which concerned the Town Council of Hilliard estimating income, appropriating funds and adopting a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

The Second and Final Reading will be held Friday, September 20.

The first agenda item concerned the council approval for Engineering Service Agreement with Mittauer & Associates, Inc. for the Florida Commerce Rural Infrastructure Funds for the construction of an 8" Parallel Water Main Extension to the FAA Center in the amount of \$199,680. This

Callahan Approves Medical Office Building Site Plan



Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met last Tuesday night (September 3) due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday. The first order of business was for the council to look over the site plan for the proposed Medical Office Building on US Highway 1 south of Callahan (the former Cato property). Doug Smith was on hand to answer any questions or concerns from the council.

"I am representing Cross Regions Group and we are known for high class developments. I'm sorry we weren't present at the last meeting. One of the questions I was sent was will the property have a privacy fence across the back?" said Smith. "And the answer is yes. The first proposed building will be 6500sf and a medical user will use half of the space. Later, we plan to construct a second building that will be 10,000sf with plenty of parking and a retention pond. We have also contacted FDOT concerning whether a turning lane is necessary and we were told no."

"This seems like a congested area

already. It just seems like a turning lane would be safer," said Councilman Matt Davis. "Could another route be engineered in to the property?"

"The entrance will be moved further south than it is now," added Smith.

The council approved the site plan for the future medical office building.

The council approved Resolution 2024-R04, which concerned making a donation of \$500 to the West Nassau High School Swim Team to assist with expenses throughout their season.

The council also approved Resolution 2024-R05, which concerned making a donation to the West Nassau Historical Society in the amount of \$2,300 to assist with expenses for the upcoming Callahan Christmas Parade. The parade will be held Saturday, December 7 at 11 a.m. Persons wishing to participate in the parade or in the vendor booths should contact the Historical Society at 904-879-3406.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, September 16 at 7 p.m.

funding is for 100% grant funding for a total participation grant for ready communities. The council approved the agreement.

The next item concerned the approval of Resolution 2024-14, which concerned accepting a FDOT offer of a

Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Design & Construction of Turf Runway improvements at the Hilliard Airpark. The council approved the resolution.

The next agenda item concerned the See 'Hilliard Approves' on page 3

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A Word
From the Publisher

This past weekend, my siblings, spouses and Roger and I, had the opportunity to celebrate our parents 73rd anniversary with them. I mean this day and time, who celebrates 73 years of marriage? I am beyond thankful and grateful to still have both of my parents, and thrilled that they want to spend their special milestone with us, is precious!

The plan was all my dad’s, for what they wanted to do. Daddy heard about a place in St. Mary’s, that was a large house that he could rent for the weekend. He looked at the pictures online and booked it. As many of you know, my parents live in Kingsland, Georgia, so the place was not far for them to travel.

We, as a family, have talked about this many times (staying all in one house). Daddy always reverts back to when we were kids and would go visit our grandparents. Many and most times, we would all pile on the floor and sleep...no worries. And most of the time, there was only one bathroom. We have each expressed our concerns to Dad that we can no longer sleep on the floor, as none of us can get off the floor! And too, we need our own rooms and bathrooms, if possible, as we wonder around in the night! He just laughed but finally understood! So, each time Dad comes up with a place for us to stay,



we make sure and check it out...just in case.

The house was super nice and also had a swimming pool, as all of my family love the water of any kind. The property was located on the marsh, so it was a beautiful setting. The weather held out as it was supposed to rain all weekend! My sister, Marci, picked up food on her way over Thursday for supper, so that began our eating frenzy.

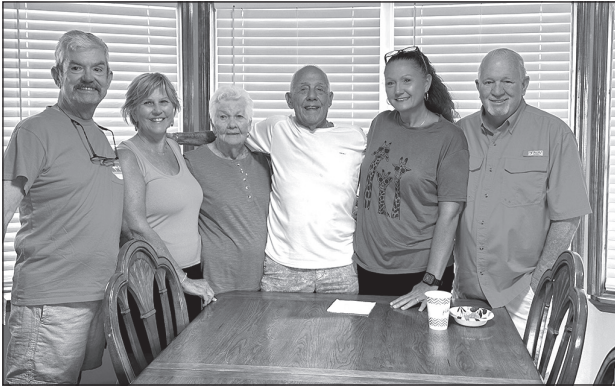
I don’t think we had any shortage of food. Friday, we all went up to eat at The Lunch Box. It is a buffet and delicious. We had such a good time and lots of good food. We lounged around the pool Friday afternoon and caught up with each other’s lives. Life is so busy and there is so much going on. It was so refreshing to just have time to sit and listen and

with anticipation. Now I see where I get my school spirit and excitement for football, both of them! We had game day food! Traditional Stearn snacks used to be: lots of Popcorn, sliced apples and ‘rat’ cheese, as we always called it (the block cheese). We fixed Mom & Dad a bowl of that and passed it to them during the game. Not even sure if they knew what they ate but they had something. We also had taco dip, chips & queso. We forgot to open the salsa. That evening, we enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs. Like I said, no shortage of food. It’s always fun to go back down memory lane and eating things from our childhood. We sure missed our brothers (Dub & Mark) but we talked about them several times. Mark was also an avid Razorback fan!

Again, I am so thankful for my family and the closeness we share. Life is so short...as we have learned. You don’t know what tomorrow may bring and it’s so important to make each day count. My parents’ love has been built on their love for Jesus Christ. They have instilled the importance of Christ’s love to us each time we’re together. We are all reminded that in this life, we all have decisions and choices to make each and every day. However, the most important decision you can make today is: Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins and come into your heart? Let today be that day.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West



In the Kitchen...

1 (4 pound) beef chuck roast
¼ cup butter
5 pepperoncini peppers

Place roast in a slow cooker. Form a pocket in the top of the roast and place butter, pepperoncini peppers, ranch dressing mix, and au jus mix in the pocket. Cook on low for 8 hours. Serve and enjoy!

Mississippi Roast

1 (1 oz.) packet ranch dressing mix
1 (1 oz.) packet dry au jus mix

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Local Homebuilder Arrested

A local homebuilder, Michael Chad Reed, the owner of The Reed Group Elite Homes, was arrested by the Nassau County Sheriff's Department. Reed is facing 12 charges relating to his home building company. The charges are organized fraud, misapplication of construction funds, and grand theft. According to the arrest warrant, several homes were contracted with The Reed Group between 2021 and 2023. More than five victims have come forward with accusations of wrong doings.

It is charged that Reed required a 15% down for a return of a completed home within 365 days. However, after the customer paid the deposit, many of the new homes were left unfinished or construction never was initiated. Some clients have had liens placed upon their homes by sub-contractors who Reed had hired to complete homes but never

paid the sub-contractors.

In February 2024, one of the families was approached by a contractor saying they had outstanding balances, around \$13,000 for a painter. Later, more outstanding invoices came.

A Callahan family added they had paid Reed \$169,000 to build their home. In February 2024, a lien was placed on their unfinished home by a building company, after they never received payment for work they had completed on the home. The home currently sits unfinished. The company filed for bankruptcy in February of this year, listing many local contractors as owing money to. The bankruptcy filed adds up to over \$1.3 million. Bond was set at \$135,000 in which Reed immediately paid and was released from the Nassau Detention Facility.

Hilliard Approves

Hilliard High School CNA Program asking for a donation to assist with needed items for their current program. The council approved to donate \$250 to the CNA Program at Hilliard High School.

The council approved an exemption for Rivers Edge Church to use the Town Hall Park at no cost for a Community Wide Event on Sunday, September 29 from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The council approved the Pool Rental Agreement between the Nassau County School District and the Town of Hilliard for Hilliard Middle-Senior High School and the West Nassau High School Swim Teams. Hilliard Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg advised the council that West Nassau has a State Champion swimmer, Brodie Singley, that uses our pool. That's pretty impressive!

The council approved the Bus

Continued from page 1

Rental Agreement between the Nassau County School District and the Town of Hilliard for bus rental for the After School Program.

The council approved the new fulltime position of Program Manager, David Pender, for the Parks & Recreation Department.

The final agenda item concerned the phone system at Hilliard Town Hall. "I have had several calls about people not being able to get through on the phone lines at town hall," said Hilliard Mayor John Beasley. "I, myself, have had problems getting through myself. Can't we just have three options instead of numerous?"

"We are still working through some issues but learning more each day about the system," added Town Clerk Lisa Purvis.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m.

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

As I have said before, Democrats do not like the truth, for the truth exposes their agenda for America and their ineptness. On the ineptness side of the story, the Democrats elected and many Republicans elected to represent us have done a disgusting disservice to us all. If any of us ran our households or businesses in the manner in which they run our country, we would all be broke, out of business and facing legal woes. Case in point, the White House reports they are unable to track \$6.2 billion sent to Ukraine. California reports they are unable to track \$24 billion spent to combat homelessness. The Pentagon reports they are unable to track \$2.3 trillion of military spending. The U.S. Treasury states they are unable to track \$5 trillion of pandemic spending. However, the IRS states, we know you sent \$601.56 to your friend, you better report it or you're going to jail!

According to Charlie Kirk, what the Democrats are doing to our country is a deliberate plan of destruction against the United States of America. They hate the country; they have bitterness for our Republic and they are making intentional steps to ruin it. In 1966, there were two Marxist-Communist political philosophers, Cloward and Piven. They wrote a document saying we are going to turn America into a communist country by doing three things. Destroy the U.S. dollar by printing trillions of dollars we do not

have. Mission accomplished! We will build a deep state of government agents that will go after everyday citizens. Mission accomplished! Thirdly we will open up the southern border of the United States to allow tens of millions of third worlders to come into our country. Mission accomplished! This is called the Cloward-Piven strategy. I encourage you all to research this document and validate what the Democrats and Republicans of the deep-state are actually doing to our Republic. They are traitors of the United States of America.

Let's look at some facts concerning the cackling pantsuit Kamala. As the Deputy DA in Alameda County, Kamala Harris wouldn't work on weekends, she took an average of 5 weeks of vacation, plus 34 days per year of sick/personal time off. As the San Francisco DA, Kamala wouldn't work on weekends, took an average of 7 weeks of vacation/year, plus 37 days/year of sick/personal time off. As Vice President, Kamala Harris has had 162 "weekend vacations" in 3.5 years, plus 128 days of "non-working" vacations and a work schedule averaging 19.5 hours per week. Kamala Harris is and always has been, a lazy, manipulative leech on the American taxpayer. She doesn't have any work ethics. She's sly as a fox and dumb as a box of rocks.

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

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EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The Sons of Confederate Veterans monthly meeting will be held Monday, September 16, at 7 p.m. at the Pig Barbeque restaurant in Callahan. The public is always invited.

ARMS (Abuse Recovery Ministry Services) offers classes in your area where women will learn to recognize, understand, and heal from issues of domestic abuse. Call 503-846-9284 or 866-262-9284 for specific locations and time.

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You Owe No Man Anything...But

Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



It seems that we have come to a point in society today where the focus is on what we may, or may not, be owed. We also assume that using the word “owe” must be defined as a financial term, but it is not only about money. So, what did God mean when He said in Romans 13:8, “Owe no man anything...”? Defining things has become a subjective task today based on how people feel. Simply redefining a truth does not change it. For example, feeling like you are a cat does not change the truth that you are a human being that God created after His likeness and His image. Telling a lie loud enough and long enough (like those today in Washington and the media) will never change the truth, but it will cause many to begin to believe the lie is true.

God was very clear in the Book of Romans that we owe nothing to each other. However, in that same verse, God continues the thought to include a “but.” This conjunction gives a caveat to the truth. God states, “...but to love one another...” So, although I do not owe any of you money, respect, my time, an explanation, my support, or as God put it- anything...I do owe you my love.

You see, everything in my list is something that must be earned. The Bible has a lot to say about earning the things you get in life. But the one thing God said you shouldn’t have to earn is my love for mankind. We used to call that decency. Love is one of those truths that many seem to try and define and is certainly subjective. However, what we can agree on is that if you love anything you care about it.

We need to get back to caring about those around us. That truth does not suggest that we must agree with each other completely or be best of friends. What loving one another does require of us is to give more than we take. So maybe today you could give a kind word, a hello, a thank you, a wave or a simple act to those you come in contact with so that we can get back to what we truly owe each other... kindness.

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Psalm 45:1

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Starting Point Celebrates Open House Saturday!

Alexandra Johnson, APRN, PMHNP-BC

Recently, Starting Point Behavioral Health celebrated the ribbon cutting for their new location in Callahan. This Saturday, they will host an Open House for the community complete with fun and food for everyone to enjoy! Starting Point Callahan is located at 617225 Brandies Avenue in Callahan. The open house will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. This will be a free family friendly event open to the public including walkthroughs of our building to explore the new location, as well as, the services and career opportunities we have to offer.

There will be fun activities for kids including face painting, crafts and raffle prizes. Refreshments will be provided by Sweet as Cyn and cookies designed by Kiko Cookies. We will also have delicious food trucks that will include San Marco Chz Fry Co. and Krackers Boiled Peanuts serving up their goodies for purchase, starting around 11 a.m.

The new clinic offers a range of services, including individual



therapy, group counseling, medication management and community outreach programs. Visit their website: www.spbh.org for more information about Starting Point and how to access services.

This event also features an exclusive preview of The Train Station, Callahan's first Family Entertainment Center, with something to do for everyone from every generation. From darts and billiards, to axe throwing, and virtual reality gaming. The Train Station will be the place to have fun! Additional parking will be across the street in the lot by the Callahan Train Depot and a free shuttle will be available for transportation. Make sure to drop by!

FREE WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY DINNER

5 p.m. • Callahan Methodist Church • Walk up
Located beside Callahan Elementary School

CHURCH NEWS

Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, will hold their monthly Gospel Sing Friday, September 13, featuring The Harper Brothers and hosts The Gospel Sounds at 7:30 p.m.

Second Baptist Church of Callahan will host Family & Friends Day this Sunday, September 15 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The church is located at 45019 Johnson Road, Callahan, where Rev. Bryant Wilcox is pastor.

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Suspects Arrested in Heron Isles Vehicle Burglary Spree



Harris Collins Martin Watson Johnson
Alicia Tarancon, NCSO PIO

On September 7, 2024, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office responded to multiple reports of vehicle break-ins at the Heron Isles subdivision along Albatross Drive in Yulee. One victim observed several suspects entering his truck, but they fled when approached. Multiple vehicles were burglarized in the subdivision, with one victim reporting the theft of a firearm and chef's knife.

The investigation led to the apprehension of five suspects: Jakwan Harris, 18, was captured and found to be in possession of a gun; Jalaal Collins, 23, was located nearby in a burglarized vehicle; and Harambee Martin, 19, was arrested after a foot pursuit, during which a missing firearm was found near where he tried to jump a fence. Our NCSO K9 Rex was deployed and used to take down Martin. Darius Watson, 17, was stopped while walking down Heron Isles Parkway, wearing a stolen backpack containing two firearms and magazines. All of which were taken from a victim's vehicle.

All the suspects were charged with Armed Burglary. Martin and Watson were both additionally charged with Grand Theft of a Firearm. All the suspects were dressed in black, wearing masks and gloves. Surveillance footage showed them checking door handles of various vehicles. The suspects reportedly traveled from Jacksonville to commit these burglaries using a stolen vehicle, and the fifth, Christiyah Johnson, 23, allegedly came to the area to pick them up after the crimes were committed.

Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper emphasized the importance of locking vehicles, stating, "These thug criminals from Jacksonville are targeting unlocked vehicles, which are easy targets. Making sure you don't leave valuable items inside your vehicle and your car doors are locked can go a long way in preventing these types of crimes."

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office would also like to remind residents not to leave guns in vehicles.

Gibson ♦ McDonald

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stearn Celebrate 73rd Anniversary

Jim and Julia Stearn, of Kingsland, Georgia, celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary September 8. They were married September 8, 1951 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, while Jim was on leave from duty in the US Air Force. From then, the couple traveled all around the United States with their five children being born along the way in Massachusetts, Florida (Jacksonville), Arkansas and two in Georgia. Following his military time, Jim continued his education achieving his Masters Degree in Education. From then, it was many years coaching and teaching with many of those years in Callahan.



The two are now enjoying their beautiful home in Kingsland and spending time with their family. They also have a wonderful church family at the First Baptist Church of Kingsland. They are both still 'hard core' Arkansas Razorback fans, with Jim keeping up with any sports activities the Razorbacks do all year! They celebrated their special milestone with a wonderful weekend with their children and spouses!



They have five children Dub (deceased) and Carol of Ft. Walton Beach, Marci and David Scott of Amelia Island, Mark (deceased) and Stephanie, Gus and Christie of Fernandina Beach and Dawn and Roger West of Hilliard. They also have 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren with one on the way; and a great-great grandchild on the way!

Mr. and Mrs. Lovett Raulerson Celebrate 73rd Anniversary

Lovett and Narine Raulerson of Callahan celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary September 6. The Raulersons were married September 6, 1951 in Folkston, Georgia, by a Justice of the Peace in his home.



They enjoy spending time at home and visiting with family and friends. Their love and devotion to each other is so precious even today. They are truly matriarchs of Callahan, as they have raised their children and many others in the love of God. Lovett is a member of the Callahan Citywide Male Chorus and loves making music with his saxophone. They are members of Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Callahan. What a blessing they continue to be in our community!

The couple has five children: Kay (deceased) and Jay Edwards and Melinda (Willis) Aderhold, all of Callahan, Vincent Raulerson and Margie Raulerson, all of Daytona and Minister Carlton (Vanessa) Raulerson of Jacksonville. They also have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Remembering September 11, 2001

Thirteen West Nassau AFJROTC cadets placed 2,977 flags in the ROTC field, in remembrance of the victims of September 11, 2001. The credit and idea all go to Mrs. Briana Bishop, the AP History teacher at West Nassau High School. Mrs. Bishop thought of it last year and ordered all the flags. She asked if the AFJROTC would like to help place them and they jumped at the opportunity.



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85th Annual Meeting



Saturday, September 14 • Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.
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Check your mail for your official Annual Meeting Invitation with all the details and map for drive-in registration and parking, or visit oremc.com/news.



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Warriors Tame Hurricanes



Coach Waylon Cox

The West Nassau High School Warriors traveled last Friday night to Ocala to take on the undefeated Lake Weir Hurricanes, who had outscored their previous opponents 118-8. The Hurricanes started with the ball and had the Warriors on their heels as they drove inside the 10 yard line. But the Warriors defense held and came up with a 4th down stop. It didn't take long for the Warriors to strike behind an 80-yard touchdown rush from Avery Griffin to take a 6-0 lead. The Warriors started their next drive with great field possession after Nash Batrous blocked the Hurricanes punt. On the first play of the drive, Pryce Arnold found Grady Stevens for a 20-yard touchdown pass. This brought the score to 12-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Skyler Freeman found the endzone in the second quarter after a 50-yard touchdown run that was capped off by an Andi Ataiza two-point conversion to make the score 20-0. After more stifling defense from the Warriors, Skyler Freeman found the endzone again to bring the score to 26-0 and halftime.

The Warriors started the second half with a bang as Pryce Arnold connected with Avery Griffin for a 61-yard touchdown pass. The Warriors got the ball back in good field position after

a Stetson Brown sack on 4th down. Skyler Freeman once again found the endzone from 6 yards out to make the score 39-0. Garrett Rica recovered a fumble on the next drive and Mo Green tacked on another touchdown to make the final score 45-0.

The Warriors were led on the ground by Avery Griffin who had 1 carry for 80 yards and a touchdown; Skyler Freeman had 7 carries for 68 yards and 3 touchdowns; and Mo Green had 4 carries for 38 yards and a touchdown. Pryce Arnold was 4 of 7 passing for 119 yards and 2 touchdowns; Grady Stevens had 2 receptions for 40 yards and a touchdown; and Avery Griffin, Skyler Freeman and Brennan Forshee added 1 reception.

The Warriors' defense was stifling again pitching another shutout led by Garrett Rica who had 12 tackles with 5 for a loss and a fumble recovery; Nash Batrous with 10 tackles and a punt block; Fisher Johnson had 8 tackles; Levi Bowler and Nick Braddock each had 7 tackles; and Stetson Brown had 2 sacks.

The Warriors travel again this Friday night to Hamilton County High School with a 7:30 p.m. kickoff!
Go Warriors!



Maegyn LaCross

Eagles Stun Flashes

Coach Matthew Yancey

In what has been characterized as a challenging season for the young Hilliard Flashes, they faced a tough opponent in Jacksonville Friday night against the Paxon Eagles. Dressing a roster of only 24 which included 7 freshmen and 10 sophomores, Hilliard was unable to get anything going offensively. Paxon was able to capitalize on several Hilliard mistakes enroute to a 41-0 win.

The game was much closer than the final score indicated. With four minutes left in the first half, Hilliard threatened to move to a one-score game. Down 14-0, Ethan Garland recovered an Eagles' fumble and returned it 57 yards inside the Paxon 5. Hilliard was unable to capitalize and went into halftime down 21-0 after a late Eagles' score.

The Flashes' defense was led by sophomore Hunter Brockett who tallied 12 tackles for the game. Blake Ray, Parks Yake and Collin Cassidy all had multiple tackles for loss on the game. Freshmen Shane Harvey, Brock



McPherson, Tucker Williams and Kolt King, all saw extended action and flashed signs of potential. The ending of the game was marred by an injury to senior leader Parks Yake taking a shot from a Paxon player. Yake was taken to the hospital with a back injury, but is expected to make a quick and full recovery.

The loss drops Hilliard to 0-3 on the season. Despite the struggles, Hilliard has shown improvement in every game. A familiar foe is up next as the Branford Buccaneers visit Paul Whittenburg Field on Friday night with a 7 p.m. kickoff. Branford won a thriller last year 21-18, but Hilliard has won four out of the last five in the series.

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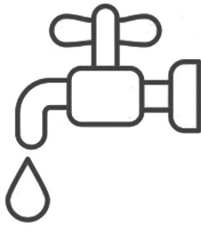
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Wednesday, September 3

Justin Bradley Jackson, 23, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Community Control MM

Thursday, September 4

Stephanie Carla Hale, 49, Hilliard: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

Friday, September 6

Wendell Elbert Gillins, 73, Callahan: Violation of Probation Community Control MM

Brandon Paul Prose, 32, Callahan: Failure to Appear (x 2)

Castaways Set Sail in St. Marys

Imagine sitting in your home watching a rerun of Gilligan's Island when suddenly, the characters come through the screen, stand in your living room, and sing about their adventures while engaging in amusing antics you've come to expect. If that idea appeals to you, then find yourself at Theater by the Trax in St. Marys during the weekends of October 11 and 18 when St. Marys Little Theatre (SMLT) presents "Gilligan's Island: The Musical."

According to SMLT Founder and co-director of the production, Barbara Ryan-Harris, the show which is SMLT's season opener, includes classic moves from the popular 1960s television series, including Gilligan's lovable goofiness and the Skipper's attempt to bring his "Little Buddy" to attention. "If you grew up with 'Gilligan's Island' like I did, you're going to love this show not just for its unleashed entertainment but also the nostalgia of a simpler time," Ryan-Harris said. "All the characters are there including Gilligan, the Skipper, the Millionaire and his wife, the movie

star, the professor and Mary Ann, plus a bonus 'alien' who is truly out of this world with his outrageous one-liners." A live spaceship makes an appearance as well according to Ryan-Harris.

Co-director and SMLT Chair Gloria Hurley said the iconic story will keep audiences engaged from the moment the metaphorical curtain rises until the very end when the question of the castaways' rescue is still a bit up in the air. "The bumbling Gilligan delivers a laugh a minute while the seductive movie star keeps you wondering if and when the men of the island will succumb to her flirtations," Hurley said. "The songs are catchy and the entire performance captures the spirit of the classic show offering audiences a much-needed escape from reality."

Tickets for "Gilligan's Island: The Musical" are now on sale at Once Upon a Bookseller in Downtown St. Marys or online at StMarysLittleTheatre.com. Adult tickets are \$20, and children 12 and under only \$10. Groups of 10 or more can get a discount at the bookstore (Cash or check at bookstore please).

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JOSEPH “ED” HIGGINBOTHAM

 Joseph Edward “Ed” Higginbotham, of Callahan, passed away September 8, 2024. He was born December 30, 1937 in Jacksonville and later relocated to Callahan. He proudly served in the US Army in 1956 he was stationed in Japan for 2 years. He married the love of his life, Kathryn Chaney Higginbotham, on May 6, 1960. He retired from the BP Corporation in 1997. In his free time, Ed loved to spend time with his family, watching old western TV shows and going to the movies. He is preceded in death by his granddaughter Heather Higginbotham Jordan.

Mr. Higginbotham is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Kathryn; his children Kenny (Pam) Higginbotham and Lamar (Cindy) Higginbotham of Lake Butler; grandchildren Justin (Lindsey) Higginbotham, Dustin Higginbotham, Jonathan (Heather) Higginbotham, Lane Ross and Hanna Higginbotham (Trevor Adams); eight great-grandchildren; and siblings Tom Higginbotham and Peggy Higginbotham.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, September 11 at Burnt Fort Cemetery with Rev. Jeul Strickland officiating.

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

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

OBITUARIES

JACQUELINE J. HOLMES



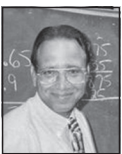
Jacqueline Joanne Holmes, 93, of Callahan, passed away August 8, 2024. She was born February 19, 1931, in Detroit, Michigan. She lived a life full of grace and love. She was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, where her faith was a cornerstone of her life. Her favorite hymn, “Amazing Grace,” was a testament to her enduring trust in the Lord. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son, John David Holmes; her brothers Charles Walker and George Walker; and her sister Nadine Youngblood.

Jacque’s legacy lives on through her daughter Deborah Gregory; her son and daughter-in-law James and Gini Holmes; two brothers; two sisters; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to a Memorial service Saturday, September 14 at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Gray Gables, 54031 Church Road, Callahan.

EDWIN D. MACMILLAN, JR.



Edwin “Ed” Donald MacMillan, Jr., age 71, of Callahan, passed away peacefully September 6, 2024, at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Jacksonville. He was born May 19, 1953, in Elmira, New York to Edwin D. MacMillan, Sr. and Coral June Bailey.

In 1970, at age 17, Ed joined the United States Navy. He was called to active duty and sent to Jacksonville Naval Air Station. While there, Ed met and later married the love of his life Beth. Ed was a very family-oriented man and cherished time with his wife and children. He was an avid motorcycle rider and greatly enjoyed camping in North Carolina. For 35 years, Ed positively touched the lives of many students throughout his career as a teacher and coach for the Nassau County School District.

Ed is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Beth; two daughters Amy (Wesley) Padgett and Carrie MacMillan; and one grandson Henry Padgett.

A celebration of Ed’s life will be held on Saturday, September 14 at 11 a.m. at Callahan Methodist Church with Pastor Bodie Riddle officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery. The family will receive friends Friday, September 13 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Alzheimer’s Association (<https://act.alz.org>) in Ed’s honor.

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

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

cancer. Phillip was born December 5, 1955 in Jacksonville, to the late John Leonard Reeves, Jr. and Geraldine Sikes Reeves. He was the oldest of 9 children and it goes without saying, his family was extremely important to him. On June 15, 1974, he married the love of his life, Linda, at the age of 18. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren.

Phillip was a professional in every sense of the word. He managed several Napa Auto Parts Stores for many years, before opening his own heavy duty truck parts business in Hilliard. He owned and operated United Parts & Equipment for over 20 years until he sold the company. Phillip was a deacon and clerk of Nathalene Primitive Baptist Church in Hilliard. He loved Sacred Harp singing and was always there to help lead a sing.

He is survived by his wife Linda Crook Reeves; children John Reeves, Eric (Eliana) Reeves, Regina (Justin) Mizell and Desiree DaRoza; grandchildren Brent Mizell, Blake Mizell, Scarlett Mizell, Alexis Reeves and Isabelle Reeves; siblings Brenda (Stanley) Bell, Leonard (Cathy) Reeves, Leisa (Mike) McKendree, Rhonda (James) McKendree, Mark (Jill) Reeves, Timothy (Tammy Lynn) Reeves, Preston (Tammy) Reeves and Paula (Mark) Addison; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Pallbearers will be his sons John Reeves and Eric Reeves, son-in-law Justin Mizell, grandsons Brent Mizell and Blake Mizell, and brother Leonard Reeves.

Visitation will be held Wednesday September 11, at his childhood home, 23241 Outpost Lane Hilliard, from 5-8 p.m. The funeral service will be held Thursday September 12 at 11 a.m. at Nathalene Primitive Baptist Church, 17106 Nathalene Drive, Hilliard. Burial will follow at Nathalene Church Cemetery. Everyone is invited to eat with the family following the service at: 23241 Outpost Lane, Hilliard.

Condolences may be expressed at www.srfhcallahan.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home-Callahan Chapel, 617365 Brandies Ave., Callahan.

JOHN “PHILLIP” REEVES



John “Phillip” Reeves, 68, of Callahan, passed away Saturday, September 7, 2024, surrounded by his family, following a long battle with

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BEFORE **AFTER**

NCS D Seeks to Return Offensive Books to Libraries

Jack Knocke, NCDF

The Nassau County School District has proposed to settle the lawsuit about obscene and offensive books in our school libraries – by potentially returning all of them to the shelves! No, this is not a story from New York City. It is right here in Nassau County, Florida. The Nassau County School Board approved proceeding with settlement negotiations at the August 8, 2024, School Board meeting. Read on and TAKE ACTION. The school board needs to know that citizens will not accept this.

Some of the books (rated by Booklooks.org as inappropriate for minors under age 18 or having explicit sexual content) could be returned to the shelves for your child’s viewing without any age restrictions! Other books rated as having aberrant content/adults only could also be returned to the shelves. One book which promotes racial division and critical race theory would be

available with no age restrictions.

The Nassau Citizens Defending Freedom inquiry to the School Board has been ignored from a letter sent August 13, 2024 concerning the action the NCS D took concerning returning books to the schools.

To give you an idea what type of books are being promoted as having educational value, the book TRICKS according to Booklooks.org is rated Adult and has the following concerns: contains “sexually explicit excerpts involving minors.” There are also excerpts containing explicit child rape and abuse; illegal drug abuse; graphic violence; underage alcohol consumption; and adult and child prostitution.” You can go to Booklooks.org using the above links and check it out for yourself. This settlement was proposed by the plaintiffs in the case and endorsed by OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT without a single NO Vote!

On June 24, 2024, Nassau Citizens

Defending Freedom made an additional request to remove 22 more library books that have no business in a school library. We had asked the Superintendent and the School Board to proactively curate books. To date, these books are STILL on the shelves and Superintendent Burns has not responded, not removed the books and does not appear to be interested in taking any action.

WHAT CAN BE DONE? If you care about your child being shielded from obscene books in the public school; If you don’t want your taxpayer money paying for pornographic materials; and if you don’t want your children to be indoctrinated in “woke ideology”... speak up and reach out!

If you want our school district to stand up and do what is right for children, please come to the next School Board meeting, scheduled for Thursday, September 12 (held the second and fourth Thursday of each

month) at 6:30 p.m. to express your outrage to the Superintendent and the School Board members. All comments should be delivered factually and with respect. If they do not hear from you (vocally or email), they will think that silence is approval. We have been silent too long.

Superintendent Dr. Kathy Burns: burnska@nassau.k12.fl.us; (904) 491-9902
School Board Members:

Shannon Hogue, District 1: hoguesh1@nassau.k12.fl.us; (904) 556-1568

Gail Cook, District 2: cookga@nassau.k12.fl.us; (904) 261-9127

Curtis Gaus, District 3: gauscu@nassau.k12.fl.us; (904) 887-9071

Dr. Cynthia Grooms, District 4: groomscy1@nassau.k12.fl.us; (904) 845-8105

Lissa Braddock, District 5: braddockli@nassau.k12.fl.us; (904) 507-9522

CONGRATULATIONS, JOSHUA!



Joshua Creamer, 26, of Hilliard, took 1st Place in the 9th Annual Terry Kelly Skate Jam Competition held at Poe Pinson Skate Park on main beach Fernandina Beach recently!



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Hagan Ace Donates to Marine Corp League For Toys for Tots

Each year, the Marine Corp League of Nassau County collects, buys and furnishes toys to children of Nassau County. Last Christmas, they gave to over 900 children in western Nassau County and 300 children in Yulee and Fernandina.

This could not happen without individuals, families, businesses. With that being said, Hagan Ace Hardware has been a faithful sponsor for years. This year shows Jacob Hagan with three of his cashiers, one from each of the Hagan Ace Nassau County stores in Callahan, Hilliard and Yulee making their donation.



Shown are: Jacob Hagan, Belia Garcia, Aubryn Hetz and Reagan McCormick presenting the donation checks to Bobby Franklin, Doug Gordy and Billy Chaires on behalf of the Marine Corp League and Toys for Tots.

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We Need Wreaths... for Festival of Wreaths Event

It's time for all of you ladies, that are amazing crafters, to design one of your beautiful wreaths to be displayed in the Festival of Wreaths! The Life Care Center of Hilliard is hosting the event. They will accept wreaths of all kinds: seasonal, sports, hobbies, cartoons, etc. You pick and design or pick up one you like and donate it! Please have the completed wreaths to Life Care by Tuesday, September 24.

The wreaths will be displayed at Life Care in the dining room. People are asked to drop by and place their bid on their favorite wreaths to purchase. The event will be held Thursday, September 26 from 5-7 p.m. All are invited! There will be refreshments for all to enjoy! Please get those wreaths in so we can start bidding on them!

The great part of the event is all proceeds go to the Pinky Promise Foundation in Callahan. Pinky Promise is a cute boutique for women diagnosed with any kind of cancer. All you need is a note from your doctor with your diagnosis and come and shop for



items you may need for FREE. Pinky Promise offers camisoles, wigs, head wraps, chemo bags and much more. Most of the volunteers are cancer survivors themselves. It's a great place to get something you might need during your treatments or recovery. Pinky Promise is located in Callahan directly across from Callahan Elementary School in the yellow cottage, Harper Rose Cottage. Their

hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. They can be reached at 904-626-2855.



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