

# RNAL

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

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VOLUME XIX ISSUE 8

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." - ROMANS 8:28

## Callahan Approves Tire Outlet Site Plan

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met last Tuesday night due to the Monday Labor Day holiday. Ruthie Brown, a resident who lives on Page Street in Callahan approached the podium. "I live on Page Street behind Callahan Barbecue. The road needed repaying and now that it is people drive on it like it's a race track," said Brown. "The road had speed bumps on it before and I'm here to ask the council to put speed bumps back. We need more than one. I'm scared to walk out my front door that a car may come into my yard or house. People speed all the time on my road."

"I have talked to you about this and we are planning on putting a speed bump back on the road if the council approves it," said Town Manager Mike Williams. "We've had some problems with the weather, getting the paver back out. This speed bump will be similar to a small ramp to help those with handicap attachments on the rear of their car not to drag over the bump."

The speed bump on Page Street will be on the agenda for the September 19 meeting of the council.



The first order of business was the review of the site plan for Tire Outlet. If approved, the Tire Outlet store will be located directly behind Popeye's in Callahan. "The 6,720sf retail tire store will have 8 bays, a reception area and service desk," said Ed Tulley, Civil Engineer for the project.

"The project has been approved by the Planning & Zoning Board and they recommend approval by the council as the building meets all the Callahan codes," said Councilman Mellecker.

"I have built several of these locations for the owner and I can say he runs a very clean operation," added Wes Westmoreland, Contractor for the project.

The council approved the site plan.

The next agenda item concerned the approval on First Reading of Ordinance 2022-O05. The ordinance concerns a Voluntary Annexation of 2.13 acres on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. The property is located near the town Waste Water Treatment Plant.

In other business, John Hendricks, representing the West Nassau Historical Society was on hand to discuss the 49th Annual Callahan Christmas Parade. "We are here to ask for the Town of Callahan's monetary support and also volunteer help for the annual parade," said Hendricks. "As with everything else prices continue to rise and we are asking for a donation of \$2,000 this

year. I have provided a complete expense sheet for the council to review."

"As you know, we must have a resolution for this. We will have one at the next meeting," Council said President Ken Bass.

Councilwoman

Jacquelyn Fleming brought a water & sewer adjustment before the council. "This resident has a normal monthly bill of \$39.16. However, her recent bill, the charge was \$273.48," said Fleming. "She eventually found that she had a water hose that busted. She fixed the hose and corrected the problem

## 4-H Hippology Team Going to Nationals

We are excited to announce that Nassau County's 4-H Youth Development Hippology Team is heading to a national competition November 4 - 6, in Louisville, Kentucky. Team members, Emma Charlie Norstrem, Norstrem, Raelin Tew and Lauren Walters will compete against other 4-H Youth Development Hippology teams from around the country,

proving their individual and team mastery of equine sciences. The term "Hippology" comes from the Greek "hippo", meaning horse, and "ology", meaning the "study of." A Hippology contest is designed to test a youth's knowledge of equine science, as well as vet science and farm management. Participants may be asked to identify anatomy, breeds, and pieces of equipment through a variety of verbal and written tests.

Just a few short years ago, Nassau County's Hippology team began their progress towards the national competition, led by the County's 4-H Extension Agent, Kelsey Irvine. This year, the team won the State Hippology contest and successfully earned a spot at the national competition. "The youth

have worked hard for several years to qualify for this event by studying and practicing their skills," said Kelsey Irvine. "We are very excited to support them in Louisville. We are also very proud of their overall success and their dedication in improving their mastery within the equine science program."

Please join us in congratulating the Nassau 4-H Hippology Team for securing their place at nationals! We know they're going to do a great job and look forward to sharing their success with the community upon their return.

Are you interested in learning how you can help 4-H and/or the Hippology Program? If so, please contact 4-H Agent, Kelsey Irvine, at (904) 530-6350 or via email at kelseymirvine@ufl.edu.

and asked for an adjustment. I make a motion that we adjust the account."

After much discussion, Fleming requested that the account be adjusted half of the charge, \$136. The council approved the request by a vote of 4-1 with Mellecker voting no, as it was not the town's fault for the overage of water.

In other business, Resolution 2022-R08 was approved on first reading which concerned adopting the tentative

roll back rate of 2.0896 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The council also approved Resolution 2022-R09 on First Reading, which concerned adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 at \$12,501,340.00. "The budget is larger as we have several grants currently," said Williams.

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

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## A Word & From the Lublisher

Last week, my parents, (Coach) Jim and Julia Stearn celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary. How blessed I am! Many people have asked me, they are 71 years old? I quickly reply, "No, they've been married 71 years. What a joy it is for me to have such a loving, wonderful couple to call my parents. They are the true vision of a love story. They met in high school in Arkadelphia, Arkansas and graduated in the same class. Daddy joined the US Air Force following graduation. He called

Mom and asked her if she could plan the wedding for the weekend, as he was able to get a leave. On September 8, 1951, they were married at the First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, enjoyed their honeymoon in Hot Springs, then loaded the car and headed to New York where Daddy was stationed.

Now, I'm not sure how many young married couples pack up shortly after marriage and move a long way away from their parents and friends. Some do, I know...but not many! And these two rarely came back home to see family. In fact, all of us children were born in different towns except me and Gus. Dub was born in Massachusetts, Marci in Jacksonville, Mark in Arkansas and Gus & I in Homerville, Georgia.

They were some traveling people. I guess that's one reason all of us (siblings) enjoy traveling.

My parents made our house a home. We had rules to follow and we did or we paid the consequences. And yes, there were consequences. We didn't have much, but to us children, we had it all. We never knew we didn't have anything. Our home was a place where we felt loved and safe. We had all kinds of friends dropping in and out and they too were treated like family members. Many still call my parents mom and dad. They filled our house with love. They taught us about Jesus from an

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early age. We, the entire family, were very active members of our church and loved our church family. To this day, my parents are still faithful, active members of their church. We learned how to pray and were taught manners and to be respectful of all adults.

I'll say I am so blessed to still have my parents and enjoy spending as much time as I can with them. We celebrated their special milestone with lunch at our home with their children. We kept it simple with sandwiches and wings and spent lots of time visiting with each other. They now live in Kingsland, Georgia, where they have called home for 21 years. What special memories I have of my childhood with godly, Christian parents and four other siblings (and their friends) to grow up with. I'm so thankful to God for my parents and for the life they live. I pray God's continued blessings on their lives!

Have a great week!

Dawy S. West



## Nassau County Teen Court

Join us for Teen Court! Real Teenage offenders...Real Crimes...Real Court Sanctions handed down, all by Teen Attorneys, Jurors and Court Officers. We need you to volunteer to serve on our Jury!

#### The next Session will be held Tuesday, September 20.

Stay in touch by phone or emails. Sign in between 5:30 - 5:45 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boys and modest dress for girls. Court begins promptly at 6 p.m. and is over by 7 p.m. Three hours of community service for each Court Session! We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorneys in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team. The Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy Beasley, Coordinator at 904-548-4520 or email: nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com.

### **Constitution Celebration**

The Earl of Camden Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution National Service Organization will hold a Constitution Celebration. The event will be held this Saturday, September 17 from 4-5 p.m. in downtown St. Marys, Georgia at the waterfront park stage.

Enjoy a patriotic presentation celebrating this vital American document. Make sure to bring your chairs and blankets. This is a free event!



### FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Callahan First Baptist Church 45090 Green Ave. • Callahan Thursday, September 15 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Barnabas @ NEFL Fairgrounds 543378 US Hwy. 1 • Callahan Monday, September 19 • 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

## In the Kitchen...

1 tablespoon oil

1/4 cup onion, finely chopped

1/4 cup green pepper, finely chopped 1/4 cup celery, finely chopped

**Smothered Chicken** 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts

> or thighs 3/4 oz. pkg. mushroom gravy mix

12 oz. can evaporated milk

Heat oil in skillet. Sauté vegetables over medium-high heat for two minutes, or until crisp-tender. Add chicken; cook for 6 to 7 minutes per side until golden. Blend together gravy mix and milk; stir into skillet. Bring to a boil; reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes, until chicken juices run clear. To serve, spoon gravy from pan over chicken.

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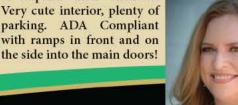


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to expand their clientele. Very cute interior, plenty of parking. ADA Compliant with ramps in front and on





Kathy Zekas 904-362-0563 KathrynZekas@gmail.com



## Chamber Announces Leadership Class



The Nassau County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the students for Leadership Nassau Class 22. This nine-month program cultivates leadership skills, educates participants on the area's most critical issues, and prepares students with the information, tools, and skills needed to help address these challenges and make an impactful difference in our community.

The Leadership Nassau Class 22 participants are: Nicola Barnack (Barnabas Center, Inc.), Kimberly Burnsed (Property Appraiser's Office), Thomas Coleman (RYAM), Kimberly Corbett (Town of Hilliard), Maurie Duggar (Amelia Island Convention & Visitors Bureau), Sean Duncan (COMCAST/Effectv), Darron England (WestRock), Charleston Garrett (First Port City Bank), David Gregors (Guardian ad Litem Program), Laurie

Holmes (Little Lambs Child Care Center), Doug Hurley (RethinkWork Consulting & Coaching), Jennifer Kirouac (First Horizon Bank), Anthony Lombardi (Board of County Commissioners), Elaine Roberts (Omni Amelia Island Resort), Hannah Ross (City of Fernandina Beach), Lisa Sanborn (First Federal Bank), Carol Saviak (Florida Power & Light), Dionna Sowers (Nassau Humane Society 2nd Chance), Jeffery Tambasco (Fernandina Beach Police Department), Dunia Taylor (REMI Realty), Stephanie Triola (New York Life) and Richard Turner (FSCJ).

For additional information about the Leadership Nassau program, email Lynne Starling, Coordinator at: Lynne@ NassauCountyFLChamber.com or visit: www.NassauCountyFLChamber.com.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans monthly meeting will be held Mon., Sept. 19, at The Pig Barbeque in Callahan at 7 p.m. If you are interested in the history during 1861 and 1865, you are invited to attend.

The Mill Creek Cemetery Association will have a meeting and clean up on Saturday, September 24 at 9 a.m. at the cemetery. Please bring yard tools and be

prepared to work.



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Roger R. West

It is such a shame that so many Americans are so misinformed, totally ignorant of facts, believe lies even though the truth has been revealed and continue to support the ones that are committing treasonous acts against our once great republic. I have received two letters in the past two weeks personally attacking me for my beliefs in the political arena as well as my belief in Christianity.

My first response to this type of communication is that's what the 1st Amendment is all about. Everyone has a right to voice their opinion. My second response is they are so humorous, filled with untruths straight from the propaganda being spewed from the lame stream media along with some far-out illusions of the writers. They claim that the judge who authorized the raid was a Trump appointed judge. The judge was not appointed by Trump, actually the position this particular judge holds is not even a Presidential appointed position. They go on to say "Trump definitely incited a mob to attack the Capitol. He instructed the Capitol Police to not carry weapons that day." Really? It's frightful that anyone could actually believe such foolishness. The President has no purview over the Capitol Police, which falls upon the Majority Leader of the House of Representative, which is Nancy Pelosi. In fact, President Trump allocated 20,000 National Guard Troops for January 6th but was turned down by both Pelosi and the mayor of Washington D.C. The left will only believe what they want to believe, facts

do not have a place in their rhetoric.

Another poor soul stated, "I have yet to meet or read work of anyone as disgustingly vile as you." She went on with her rage by asking "Did your momma drop you on your head?" It's very difficult for me to believe that a plain ole' citizen in Nassau County knows the content of the papers seized in the unorthodox raid on President Trump's home. They also know that Trump allowed a Russian spy to view the papers and that Putin already has knowledge of the papers. Somewhere along the road I missed the "murdering of Capitol Police." She also stated, "Our constitutional form of government has been defiled by you bat-crap crazy Republicans". She ends her "Karen" moment with "The sins, sir, are being committed by you Trumpublican fascists. Do not send your scandal rag to my home again. Any person involved with this Bible of Satan will rot in Hell for it. This is not written to you respectfully. I could never respect your kind." My only response to you 'Karen' is, May God bless you and I hope your day gets better.

These are the reasons we have to turn-out in droves for the mid-term election. It is so very vital to remove the socialists from being able to ruin the minds of our fellow citizens. I ask that every God-fearing believer prays for these two individuals and prays for our nation. One Nation under God Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for All.

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



## The Choice is Yours

Pastor James MacFarlane, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



This last week I have been introspective about several things. One thing that I have been thinking about is the 9/11 attacks. This may have been 20 years ago, but I was serving in the military during this tragedy. I lost friends at the Pentagon and have deployed since to ensure our freedoms and safety. My friends made a choice that all who serve make choices. As I thought about the choices and sacrifices my friends made and what those sacrifices stood for, I also thought about the

sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for the world. God chose to send His only Son so that we could be reconciled through Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus Christ chose to obey the Father unto death for the Father's will to be fulfilled. These are choices that were made. Life-changing and far-reaching choices for all of mankind. We are faced with far-reaching and life-changing choices in our own lives as well.

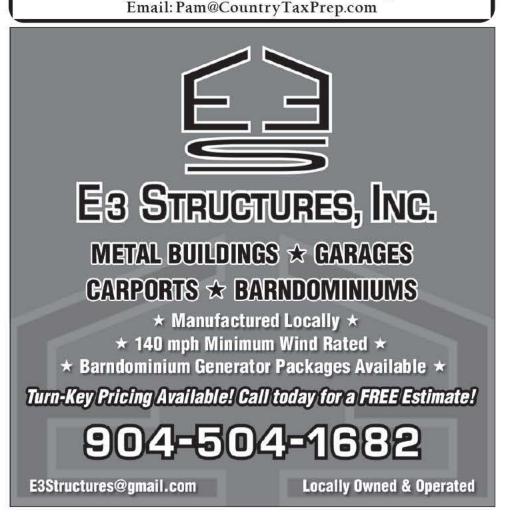
Have you ever thought about the gift of free will that God has given us. God loves us so much He gives us the ability to choose. Yes, it is a wonderful thing. We can choose to love Him. We can choose to become followers of His Son Jesus Christ. We can choose to have faith in Jesus Christ and God's plan for us. Yet, have you ever thought about repentance as a choice. Repentance is a choice we must all make. Our first act of repentance leads to our salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. However, repentance does not end there. We live in a fallen world. We are fallen creations. We have a sin nature that will not find it's end until we are no longer of this earth, but present with God. This means that repentance is an everyday occurrence. Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in showing us our sins and failing and repenting of them is a necessary exercise for every one of us. One that cannot be taken lightly no matter how long we have been followers of Christ. If no one is immune to sin, then it stands to reason, everyone should examine their heart daily and repent of their actions and thoughts that fall short.

This may seem taxing or obligatory. Yet, the greatest thing about repentance is that it always leads to forgiveness. Acts 13:39 reads that everyone who believes in the name of Jesus Christ is forgiven of everything. Yes, that means there is nothing keeping us from adoption into the family of God except making the personal choice to follow Jesus. When making this choice remember; our God is a merciful, faithful and forgiving God. No matter the circumstance, God will always be there when we turn away from our sin and back to Him. Considering these truths, only one question remains. What are you waiting for?

Bethany Episcopal Church will be selling Barbecue Pork Dinners Friday, September 16 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each. Eat-in or Take-out! The church is located on CR 108 in Hilliard across from Hilliard Town Hall.

Lannie Road Baptist Church will hold a Fall Festival Saturday, September 17 from noon - 4 p.m. The church is located at 5998 Lannie Road, Jacksonville,





### Local Author Publishes Book

Callahan's Ashley M. Waddell's new book, Ginger's Adventures: The Missing Pin is a delightful volume that teaches children the importance of staying mindful when crisis arises. Fulton Books author, Ashley M. Waddell, a loving mother and wife, a kid at heart, and a Children's Ministry teacher, has completed her most recent book, Ginger's Adventures: The Missing Pin. This is an adorable story that follows Ginger's playdate with her friend, Zelda. The two were enjoying their time when Zelda noticed her pin gone! It was a pin gifted by her mother and

it holds great significance to her. How will Ginger solve this issue? Waddell shares, "Ginger's Adventures is filled with friendship and problem-solving. the unexpected happens, we don't have to feel afraid or worried. Ginger teaches us that if we stay calm, we can solve any problem. Come along on the adventure as Ginger



solves the mystery of the missing pin!" Published by Fulton Books, Ashley's book is a beautiful read that encourages children to remain calm in unexpected

> situations. It's definitely a great read to share with the little ones.

Readers who wish to experience this charming purchase work can Ginger's Adventures: The Missing Pin at bookstores everywhere, or online at: the Apple iTunes Store, Amazon, Google Play or Barnes & Noble.

## NARFE First Coast Chapter Meeting

Ginger's Adventures:

The Missing Pin



Chapter 2273 of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Assn.) will have a meeting next Tuesday, September 20 at 11 a.m. at The Pig Barbeque restaurant, FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS 450102 SR 200 in Callahan.

We will discuss progress on repealing the WEP & GPO, the NARFE Florida Conference in Jacksonville on October 15 & 16, & Congressional elections in November.

All active and retired federal and postal employees, and their families are welcome to attend. Attendees start arriving after 11 a.m. and have lunch on their own. The formal program will start around noon. Chapter 2273 has regular luncheon meetings the third Tuesday of each month, except December. For additional information and non-members, contact Greg D'Alessio at 904-347-3338 or email Greg at gregdale713@gmail.com.

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## If Today Was Your Last Day...

Yvette Outler

What would you do with your last day on earth? From the day we were born we began to die. We have a set number of days to live given to us by our Heavenly Father. (Ecclesiastes 3) If you knew beyond any doubt

that today was your last day to live, what would you do? Where would you go or who would you visit?

December 15, 1977, our Christmas tree was up, and I had just wrapped my dad's favorite, "Old Spice" cologne and put it under the tree. Like a typical night, being the baby, I crawled into bed between Mom and Dad and fell fast asleep. I woke up to the sound of my mother crying. I turned and looked at my dad. His left arm was hanging off the bed. He was white as a ghost. I felt his right arm. It was cold. I knew. I knew what I did not want to know. I knew that my daddy was gone. He had lived his last day. I learned early in life that tomorrow is not promised.

How to live like it is your last day: Be Forgiving. The biblical meaning of forgiveness is that you forgive the offense and agree to not hold it against the one who hurt you anymore. Because we are humans we cannot forget. But with God we can forgive. It is when He applies His super to our natural that something beautiful happens. Beauty from ashes unfold in front of your eyes. Who do you need to forgive?

Be Loving: The biblical view of love looks like this, "Patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, it is not proud or puffed up. It does not dishonor others,

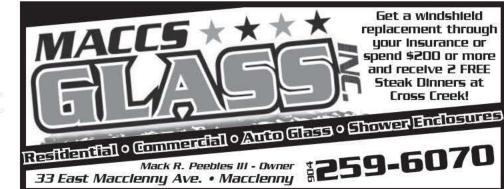
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it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 How have you been

loving those under your own roof? I challenge you to love God's way. It is a game changer!

Be thankful: Thank the ones who led you to Christ and played a part in you being fully mature in Him. Thank your spouse for accepting and loving you anyway. Thank your children for their unconditional love extended repeatedly. Thank your neighbor who you see every day and take for granted. Thank your choir buddy who you sit next to and sing with every Sunday. Most especially, thank God. Thank God for His free gift of salvation. Thank Him for sending His only Son to die so that you can live with Him in Heaven for eternity. Understand this, for the Christian, our eternity begins on this side of heaven... let's allow our thankfulness to spill over on those around us. What are you thankful for? Who are you thankful for? Tell them.

If you were on your death bed right now, what would you regret the most? Let that be the catalyst to change your "now" while you still have the opportunity and breath. I am sure that my father did not know that December 15, 1977 was going to be his last day with us. Only the Lord knows our last day. Let us actively live like today is our last day.





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#### In Response

Dear Editor (Roger),

I am so glad that the Westside Journal (WJ) is so fair and balanced as to allow misguided democrats, liberals, progressives, socialist, whatever moniker or title they decide to settle on, to have a say in your very fair and accurate tabloid even when they are wrong on facts. This is much different from their (the democrat parties) mainstream media tabloids of lyingtology and propaganda, such as the New York Times, Twitter, CNN, MSNBC or Facebook now named Meta. They keep changing names?

All of these have censored and suppressed speech from other viewpoints. These tabloids of lyingtology continue to pour out unmitigated lies/non-truth and censor anyone and anything who disagrees with them. Tabloids which so many misguided democrats, which you so graciously accommodate and do not censor their freedom of speech and selfexpression in your excellent newspaper. Don't ever let them change your focus of presenting what is actually happening, the truth in our community and nation. I sort of viewed the columns written by the misguided democrats as your local comedy corner. Isn't it "funny" how these individuals try to accuse you, and others who agree with you (such as myself), of doing the very things which they are actually "guilty" of doing. That is the democrat party's way of doing things.

I will close with this one great example: I heard Mayor Lori Lightfoot of Chicago, a great example of the hypocrisy of so many in the misguided democrat party, say, "the immigrants, all illegal, being sent to her is terrible, horrible, no good, very bad city, which they may soon find out is worse than the places they came from, is as a result of a humanitarian crisis, being manufactured by a cheap politician." She was directing this toward the Great Republican Governor of the State of Texas. What she was saying actually applies to the leader of the democrat party President Joe Biden. He is the "cheap politician," Lori Lightfoot's words, not mine, who has created the "real humanitarian crisis" at our southern border that has allowed over 2

## 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.

million illegal immigrants to cross the southern borders into just Texas and Arizona since Joe Biden came into office and discontinued the humane immigration policies.

Also, Biden has approximately 1,000 deaths on his hands. The blood of those illegal immigrants who have died crossing some of the most dangerous areas of the southern borders and Biden's inhumane policies. Lightfoot is upset that Governor Abbott has sent a "few thousand" of these illegal immigrants of the 200,000 coming across the border into Texas and Arizona each month to self-declared "sanctuary cities" who invited them to come to their states and cities. Here is the hypocrisy of all these mayors in Washington D.C., New York City and now Chicago. They, these liberal mayors, are crying and complaining like a bunch of babies about a few thousand causing a humanitarian crisis in their crime ridden cities.

T. Burns

#### Successful Election

Dear Editor

I want to personally thank all of our election staff and election workers for their outstanding work during the 2022 Primary Election. During this election season, 287 election workers and our Nassau County election team of 13 worked tirelessly to ensure our election was conducted successfully. Election workers did everything from voter check-in, polling place set-up, logistics, equipment testing, supervised voting, and canvassing vote-by-mail ballots. All polling locations opened on time, 100% of vote by mail ballot signatures were verified, and 100% of all ballots were audited to ensure accuracy of our tabulation system.

Canvassing Board members, Judge Higginbotham and Commissioner Farmer, were generous with their time. This included a seven-hour machine recount conducted on Saturday, August 27 for the Democratic Congressional District 4 contest. Florida Statutes define how elections are to be conducted; and Florida Statutes govern how our Nassau County Elections Office operates. Our job is simply to follow the law and our Nassau County team did it well.

A question was raised in last week's paper about how voter information is obtained by third-party organizations. The answer to this question is found in Florida Statute 119. With few exceptions, all voter registration information is public record, including your name, address, date of birth, party affiliation, phone number and email address. At no time, in the past or present, has it been the practice of our office to sell voter information or any other public record.

Another highlight of this election season was the introduction of our new election mobile app, the first of its kind in Florida. You can download this free app by searching: "Vote Nassau FL" in your app store. This new election app will allow you to view candidate information, find your precinct, and monitor voter turnout.

Please let me know about your voting experience by emailing: info@VoteNassauFL. gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

Janet H. Adkins Supervisor of Elections

#### Fix Property Damage

Dear Editor,

It amazes me how these contractors come in and destroy your property and don't feel the need to replace or repair the damage to your property. The county gives them the okay to come in and do whatever with no concern about the residents that already live in the area.

On August 21st, the people working for a local contractor off of Tamara Lane in Callahan, destroyed some of our fence with their equipment. Yet no one has offered to repair or replace the damage done to our fence. I decided to share this with all of Nassau County.

Deborah Jones

#### Troubled Country!

Dear Editor

I want to thank Roger West for sharing his opinion, to take the time to articulate it every week, without coming unhinged and turning it into a rant, he must be protected by GOD.

I am very concerned with the weaponization of the alphabet agencies in our government. The heads of which, being appointed rather than elected, make it impossible for the American public to be ensured of accountability by the likes of the F.B.Lie, Department of Injustice, and Homeland Insecurity.

The raid on Mar A Largo, was a sham. People when you just throw Top Secret files, and other documents on the floor, as President Trump supposedly did, they don't land in an

order that makes them all perfectly placed for the camera. The man gets a judge to listen to reason about the need for a Special Master to oversee the process, and the D.O.J. files an appeal.

Homeland Security last week, finally admitted that the Afghanistan refugees allowed into our country, when we so hastily departed, were NOT vetted like they had promised. A large percentage of them didn't even have their first or last names listed on their import documents. Forty-six of them were already on the suspected terrorist list. Wow, now that is a tight run ship. Our government is Big Brother folks, if you disagree, then you need to pull your head out of the sand. When you hire, arm, and train more I.R.S. agents than you have as standing members of The United States Marines, there is a BIG problem.

I would be willing to bet that these people will not be required to take an oath to the Constitution either.

Then there's the problem with the southern border, millions, not thousands, of immigrants have flooded across it since Biden took office. I GUARANTEE they are NOT vetted either. In this way Big Brother could declare a national security emergency, and declare martial law, which might just cancel the midterm elections.

If the Republicans were to take the House and Senate in the mid-terms and go to work on these issues, we might just stand a chance of saving this great republic, if not then you had best give your heart to JESUS, because your butt will belong to the "State" comrade.

The LORD has a plan, and a timeline that is HIS own. I truly believe that he is our ONLY salvation. If you have friends or loved ones that you doubt are Saved by the Grace of JESUS CHRIST, then you need get to work leading them.

Hal Waite

#### Divisive Country

Dear Editor

As usual, Roger was precise and to the point in his 'Just My Opinion' segment in last week's paper. It's a shame that some folks, no matter what party, are blind to the current events of this country. Perhaps they need to be stripped of these political parties for once, and become true Americans. Just because they identify as one or the other doesn't mean they need to ignore the issues for political reasons.

My opinion is a simple one. Abolish the political parties and replace them with one party. Americans. Probably won't happen in my lifetime, but it's an idea that may end the hypocrisy that runs rampant in our government today. But our current administration will not admit they are wrong, even when it's proven to them. They come up with some excuse or downright lie that the media jumps on and runs with, just to incite diversion of the truth...further dividing the people. We can see it. Why can't they?

It would only take a few days to straighten out this country, and correct the destructive direction it is going. Let's hope we have a country left when we get a chance to put this in order. God and Country.

Steve Shaw P.S. Roger, You're welcome!

# DO YOU HAVE A CONFEDERATE ANCESTOR?

Outmanned, out-gunned and out-supplied - but never out-fought - Confederate soldiers wrote a proud chapter in this nation's history for independence, toughness, bravery, patriotism and Heritage of Honor.

If you want the symbols of the Confederacy to remain a part of our cultural history, and you are the male descendant of a Confederate soldier, then we invite you to join our cause.

The SCV is a non-political heritage organization, not affiliated with any other group, dedicated to the preservation of the reputation of men like Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson - and your great-grandfather,





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## New Beginnings and Milestones

## Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCullough Celebrate 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary



Ray and Margie McCullough, of Hilliard, celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary September 15. They were married September 15, 1951 in Folkston, Georgia. Ray (21) and Margie (17) met at Ray's aunt's home and within six months they were married. They lived in Georgia off and on for 10 years before moving to Florida in the 1960s claiming Hilliard as their home. Ray retired as a mechanic; and Margie retired from the Nassau County School Board.

Ray enjoys making bird

houses and Margie enjoys working in the yard and in her beautiful flower beds. They are active members of Buford Grove Baptist Church in Boulougne. They celebrated their special milestone Saturday at their home with family, friends and food.

They have four sons, David (SueAnn), Lee (Sandy), Mark and Timmy (Amanda). They have 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.



### Free Tree Drive-Thru Event



Residents will earn free trees by completing a brief online training recorded by UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County and registering for their preferred tree species and pick-up location at least 72 hours prior to the event. Those who complete the registration will be offered 1 or 2 free, 3-gallon, Florida friendly trees to plant on their property in Nassau County.

A drive-through event will be held in Callahan, Saturday, September 24 at the fairgounds. The event will be held from 9 a.m. - 11a.m. Registration is required 72 hours prior to the event. While supply lasts. Quantity is limited to 500 free trees. Register for your tree at: https://keepnassaubeautiful.org/programs/planting-nassaus-future/. For more information, call 904-261-0165.

## Now Accepting Donations of Wreaths!



We are accepting wreath donations to be displayed and sold during the silent auction to raise funds for The Pinky Promise Foundation, which supports local residents battling cancer.

Donations may be dropped off or call 904-845-6712 for more information.



 $Silent\,Auction\,to\,bid\,on\,Beautiful\,Wreaths$ 

Friday,October 21 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Life Care Center of Hilliard 3756 West 3rd St. • Hilliard





## New Listings YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

#### 55188 Yellow Jacket Dr. Callahan 3BR/2.5BA on 1.4 Acres

Desirable custom brick home in Spring Lake Estates! As you walk through the front entrance you step into the foyer and it opens up to the living room on the right, kitchen and dining on the left. This home boasts a split



floor plan, large master bedroom and garden tub in the master bathroom. Enjoy your coffee on the screened porch or under the pergola and watch nature. New roof to be completed before closing, A/C installed 2022 and tankless water heater in 2021. No HOA or CDD Fees.



#### 55525 Deer Run Rd. Callahan 4BR/2BA

Desirable Spring Lake Estates! Beautiful custom brick home on nearly 1 acre of property. The home boasts 12 ft. ceilings in most rooms creating a spacious and open environment. Flooring is laminate in the

foyer, hallway and bedrooms. Well maintained carpet in the dining room and living area, tile in the kitchen and bathrooms. Also, features a breakfast area adjacent to the kitchen. Enjoy your mornings and evenings on the back porch with a picturesque view of the yard. A great place to relax, bird watch or entertain guests. No HOA or CDD fees. Schools are A-rated. Conveniently located 40 minutes to the beach, 20 minutes to the airport and shopping.

#### 45824 Pickett St. • Callahan 3BR/1BA on 2.31 Acres

Acreage! High and dry property with plenty of space for gardening or adding covered storage with an additional driveway provided. This home boasts beautiful original wood floors, a large kitchen with plenty of space for a dining table and much more. Freshly painted interior



and exterior to be painted white with black trim this week! There is an additional well and septic from a previous mobile home that was on the property. Buyer to verify with county but may have potential for an additional dwelling. No HOA or CDD fees.



## 55213 Shug Road • Callahan 3BR/2.5BA

Custom Brick Home! This beautifully maintained home sitting on over 2 acres is sure to please. This open floor plan concept feels spacious for a large or growing family. Includes 12 ft. ceilings in the dining room, living room and master bedroom. Also includes an office and ensuite off master bedroom, either room

could be used for an extra bedroom, kids playroom or workout room. The kitchen features beautiful custom cabinets with Corian countertops. Dining area and breakfast area are beautifully adorned with plantation shutters. Laminate flooring throughout the home, tile in bathrooms and carpet in most bedrooms. NO HOA or CDD Fees.

#### 55050 Bartram Trail Callahan 4BR/2BA

Beautiful custom brick home with 3-car garage situated on 1.1 acres. As you walk in the front entrance there is a flex/office space to the right and a spacious dining room area to the left. Cozy up in the living room next



to your gas fireplace and beautiful view of the back yard. This is a split floor plan where the master bedroom boasts a large walk-in closet, master bathroom with garden tub and separate shower. Vinyl plank flooring in all the bedrooms with tile in the bathrooms & kitchen. Other amenities include Vivint home security system, Kinetico whole home water system and Rain Bird irrigation. Low HOA and No CDD Fees.



#### 553187 US Hwy. 1 • Hilliard

Investor Alert! Two parcels available zoned Open Rural, for a total of 2.79 acres. The first parcel is 1.21 acres with a concrete block structure. The structure was a 3BR/1BA home and has no value. This parcel also has well, septic, electric and no impact fees. The second parcel is 1.58 acres. This parcel has two well heads and may also have impact fees paid,

buyer to verify with county. Both parcels are being sold together. Seller is willing to divide with a solid offer.



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Bobbie 'BJ' Powell, Realtor Email: bjpowell.realtor@gmail.com

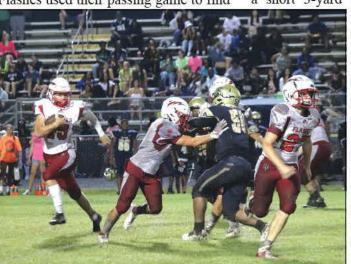
#theprayingagent

## **Flashes Fry Golden Eagles**

Holden McMillen

Looking to bounce back from a tough loss, the Hilliard Flashes were back in action as they traveled on the road against the rival Paxon Golden Eagles. With the moderate rain shower softening the gridiron, field conditions were treacherous the entire game. The Flashes began the contest first and relied on their run game to move the ball down the field. The drive quickly stalled as the Golden Eagle defense forced a turnover deep inside their own territory. After the defense forced a three-and-out on the ensuing drive, the Flashes offense went back to work and used the run game to march down the field. Their efforts were rewarded when Braydon Holley scored from 4 yards out. With the extra point good, the Flashes closed out the opening quarter with an early 7-0 lead.

It was more of the same in the second quarter. The Flashes offense could do no wrong continuing to lean on the run game. Like the drive prior, the Flashes offense scored again with the feet of Lyle Bennett, taking a read option 8 yards up the middle for the score. The Flashes used their passing game to find



Holley on a throwback screen and was escorted with a perfectly timed block by left tackle Ryland Hall out in space to score from 19 yards out. After the extra points were good and blocked, respectively, the Flashes widened their lead to 20-0. The Golden Eagles were able to strike back, using their passing game with a 36-yard pass and then a short 3-yard touchdown pass over

the end zone again as Bennett found

the middle. With the extra point good, the Flashes' lead got a little shorter as they went into halftime with a solid 20-7 advantage.

Step right up and enjoy the roller coaster ride that was the third quarter. The ride began when the Golden Eagles started the quarter with the ball, went down the field on 4 plays and capped the drive off with a 40-yard score off the right side with a quarterback keeper. With the extra point the Flashes good, saw their lead get cut down to six as they clung to a 20-14 lead. The Flashes answered quickly when Bennett fooled everyone with a zone read keep and torched the defense for

a 41-yard score. After the extra point was good, the Flashes extended their lead to 26-14. The Flashes defense got involved in the fun when Tucker Pickett got home to the quarterback, causing a fumble that was returned by Brandon Matthews all the way to the Golden Eagles' 1 yard line. The Flashes used the legs of Holley to score on the ensuing play. With the extra point good, the Flashes widened their lead to 33-14. The Golden Eagles were able to respond in kind with another scoring drive of their own and found the end zone courtesy of a 20-yard run. With the extra point blocked, the Flashes' lead came down to two scores, maintaining a healthy 34-20 lead. The Flashes got the passing game back going when Bennett connected with Nathaniel Vroman as he rolled to his right for a 15-yard score. The extra point no good. An interception by Brogan Johns capped off an electric night. The Flashes earned

sweet redemption by doubling the score against the Golden Eagles with a final of 40-20 with both teams combined to score 33 points in the second half.

Offensively, the Flashes rebounded nicely from their tough loss the week prior. Outside of the opening drive fumble, the Flashes produced 40 points and 324 yards of total offense. The Golden Eagles' defense had no answers for Holley all night, with 10 carries for 144 yards and a score, while catching 5 passes for 72 yards and a score; and Billy Cassidy had 17 carries for 22 yards on the night. Bennett also had a productive night as well, scoring 4 combined touchdowns going 8/11 for 99 yards and 2 scores, and had 5 carries for 59 yards and 2 scores. Nathaniel



Vroman and Prestin O'Quinn were also on the receiving end of Bennett's passes with Vroman having 2 catches for 22 yards and a touchdown, and O'Quinn had a catch for 5 yards.

Defensively, the Flashes forced 2 turnovers and kept the Golden Eagles offense scoreless for two quarters. Damon Kibler led the unit with 5 tackles; Colton Conner followed with 4 tackles; Pickett with 4 tackles, 2 sacks, and a forced fumble; Matthews had 3 tackles and a fumble recovery; Jacob Hoover and Billy Moore each had 3 tackles; Johns had 2 tackles and an interception; and Klayton Bright had 2

The Flashes will enjoy some good old-fashioned home cooking as they begin a stretch of four straight home games. This Friday night, the Flashes host a familiar foe in the Lafayette-Mayo Hornets. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Go Flashes!



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## Thought of the week...

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## **Warriors Blown Out Again!**

Kyle Pipkin

On Thursday night, the Warriors traveled to Darien, Georgia to take on the McIntosh County Academy Buccaneers. They were chosen to be a part of the Battle of the Border hosted by News4Jax/WJXT. The Warriors struggles continued especially after falling to a very talented Charlton County team last week. Thursday night did not go as everyone would hope, it ended with 42-8 loss for the Warriors. This was the second week in a row that the Warriors went to Georgia for a game on the road with both games ending with a loss.

Offensively, the Warriors were able to rush for over 250 yards. It was done the way the Warriors always do using multiple backs. Thursday, six different people ran the ball for the Warriors. Senior Christopher Crews lead the team in rushing with 13 carries for 70 yards averaging 5.4 yards per carry. He did score the only touchdown of the night. Actually, scored all of the points for the Warriors connecting on the 2-point conversion, too. Senior Jeff Lavender ran for 63 yards on 10 carries, picking up almost 11 yards every time he touched the ball. Mr. consistent, Russell

Weeks, chipped in another 61 yards on the ground. If you have not noticed, Weeks is one of the leading playmakers for the Warriors every single week.

Thursday afternoon was not the best day for Warriors quarterback Jackson Perry. He completed just 9 of his 21 pass attempts. Perry was able to connect with

Leondrel Whitley for one pass that went for the 30 yards. The biggest stat of the night was the 3 interceptions thrown by Perry on Thursday. It was the most attempts in a single game for Perry this season, having only attempted just 10 passes the first two games of the season. It is hard for any quarterback to get in any kind of rhythm with so few attempts throughout each game. Although the Warriors offense is built around the Warrior running game, maybe trying to get some kind of passing game may help the team get into the end zone more often.

One improvement Thursday was the amount of turnovers that came off of

fumbles. Only having one lost fumble in the game was the least turnovers this season. This has been improvement from the last few games. Turnovers continue to plague the Warrior offense though. This

has to be cleaned up if they

want a chance to beat the better teams in the area to have a shot at the playoffs.

The Warrior defense was led by Stran Copher who had 4 solo tackles and assisted on 2; Braxton Russell had 3 solo and 3 assisted tackles. Russell has been among the leading tacklers for the Warriors each and every week. Christopher Crews and Skyler Freeman both had one tackle for loss.

The last couple of weeks have been a disappointment, losing in blow out

fashion in both games. Good news is neither of those should matter come playoff time considering they were both played in Georgia. So, they should not hurt the Warriors playoff chances, as long as they win their upcoming games. I, along with a lot of people, are still trying to figure out the system the state uses to pick who makes the playoffs since there isn't any districts anymore. I understand the reasoning, because too many times bad teams in weak districts has made the playoffs leaving good teams at home.

This Friday night West Nassau will travel to Episcopal School in Jacksonville to take on the Eagles in a local match up at 7 p.m. West Nassau enters the match up 1-2 on the season. Episcopal enters the game 2-0 after a close win over Orange Park. This could be the game to right the Warrior season!

Go Warriors!



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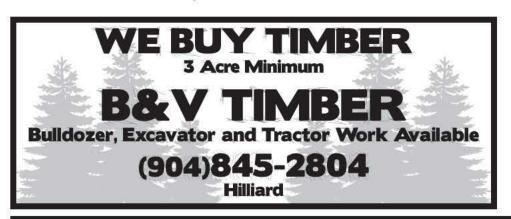
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\* October 5 is the last day to register

## Nassau County Fire Chief Named Northeast Regional Director

Nassau County is proud to announce that Nassau County Fire Chief, Brady Rigdon, has been selected to serve as the Northeast Regional Director for the Florida Fire Chief's Association.

The Florida Fire Chief's Association (FFCA) is Florida's leading management education organization for fire and emergency services professionals, specializing in promoting and supporting excellence in fire and emergency services management. As the Northeast Regional Director, Chief Rigdon will participate in FFCA's board meetings and will carry out duties as directed by the FFCA President. These duties may include, but are not limited to, internal and external committee assignments; establishment of a communication plans and implementing long-range communications strategies for the Northeast Florida region; reviewing regional membership data; and serving as liaison between regional members and the Board of Directors. FFCA President, Doug Riley, stated, "I am both honored and excited to appoint Fire Chief Brady Rigdon as the Northeast Regional Director for the Florida Fire Chief's Association. He



Board of Directors."

The Board County Commissioners commends Chief Rigdon on his willingness to further serve his community and his colleagues throughout the region. We have no doubt that he will be a great asset to the FFCA and that he will represent Nassau County well.

## POLICE REPORTS

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

#### Friday, September 2

Christina Denise Errico, 28, 54061 Catherine Avenue, Callahan: Sale of Methamphetamine

#### Thursday, September 8

Matthew Joseph Mowery, 23, 552959 US Highway 1, #1, Hilliard: Possession Schedule 1 Substance (More than 20 grams Cannibas)

## County Welcomes New Assistant County Attorney

The Nassau County Attorney's Office welcomed a new Assistant County Attorney, Abigail Jorandby. Ms. Jorandby is an accomplished, boardcertified attorney with needed experience County represent government. has She worked extensively with

city, county and local government and has represented local government commissions and boards related to public hearings, land use, planning and zoning, procurement and contracts, drafting of legislative ordinances and resolutions, and Florida's Open Government and Public Record's Law.

Ms. Jorandby's work experience includes Assistant State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit and County Attorney for Brevard County. She has

also served as Assistant General Counsel for two municipal law firms in Palm Beach County, Florida. A Florida native, Ms. Jorandby graduated Summa Cum Laude from Florida

> Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish, a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, and a Master of Laws in Elder Law from Stetson University. She is a member of Florida Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, the U.S. District Court for both the Middle and Southern Districts of

Atlantic University with a

Florida and the Florida Association of County Attorneys.

County Attorney, Denise May, stated, "I am very happy that Abigail has accepted the position. Her knowledge and experience make her a great asset to the County as whole, as well as to the County Attorney's Office as we strive to provide the Board of County Commissioners with outstanding legal



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We look forward to hearing from you!

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** now available at LIFE CARE CENTER OF HILLIARD- Now Hiring FL Licensed CNAs-Great starting pay rate! We offer a team-oriented environment along with a great benefit package. Please apply in person at 3756 West 3rd Street, Hilliard, (904)845-3988 or fax resume to (904) 845-4456. tfn

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WOMEN'S HELP CENTER is looking for part-time SONOGRAPHERS for its Callahan and Westside offices. Applicants must hold a current ARDMS registry with OB training and experience, be in good standing, and adhere to our ministry's principles. Saturday work required. Call 904-628-0365 and ask for Teresa. 100622

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#### EMPLOYMENT CONT.

Okefenoke REMC Seeking Member SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (Hilliard). The Member Service Representative position is responsible for: Front line communication with our consumer-members in person, online and on the phone, while maintaining a positive attitude and developing a working relationship with all OREMC department personnel; Providing and maintaining accurate records regarding consumer-member accounts, including but not limited to billing records, meter records, and payment records; Receiving new connection requests, transfer requests, and disconnection requests of service in person and over the phone; Maintaining a working knowledge of OREMC rates, policies, and procedures to properly inform, educate, and assist all consumer-members with their needs. The position requires a high school diploma and customer service experience. Basic knowledge of accounting principles preferred. Interested candidates should visit; www.oremc.com/employment to view the full job description and complete the online Application for Employment. Applications will be accepted via email at jobs@oremc.com or at one of our office locations through September 23, 2022. OREMC reserves the right to cancel all bids for employment. 92222

JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN POSITION: Okefenoke REMC is now accepting applications for an open Journeyman Lineman position in Hilliard, Florida. A complete job description and application are available online at www.oremc.com or can be picked up at any of our offices Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. -5 p.m. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, September 26, 2022, at any of our offices or emailed to jobs@oremc.com. The Co-op reserves the right to cancel any and all bids. Okefenoke REMC is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug Free Workplace, 92222

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VFW Post 10095. Hilliard. Yard Sale! Saturday. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., across from the Hilliard Airpark. Lots of nice baby items and new donations. Everything \$5 Bag! Help support our Veterans.

EVERY FRIDAY BAG DAY! Fill a bag with clothes for \$7! God's Bridge Ministries, located behind CVS, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. tfn

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 54024 Seagull Drive, off Church Road, Callahan. Everything must go! Most things inside the home!

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CAR LIFT cylinders, need work, \$600; LEAF RAKE, \$10: HOMELITE CHAINSAW, \$40; gas EDGER, \$10; TWIN BED PILLOWTOP, \$10; BEARING PRESS, \$10; DINING TABLE with 6 chairs & bar stools, \$50; RV WASHER/DRYER combo, \$40; lots of clothes, \$2 each; OBO on all items. Call 879-1280 for information.

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#### Angela Ann Agustin



Angela Ann Agustin, 60, of Jacksonville, passed away September 3, 2022. She was born March 9, 1962 in Eastman, Georgia to Mack Peacock and

Helen Parker Peacock. Angela and the love of her life, Elmer, wed on November 3, 1979, and they shared more than 40 beautiful years together. She enjoyed home décor, playing cards, cooking and shopping. Angela is preceded in death by her parents.

Angela is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Elmer Agustin; children Christopher Agustin, Daniel Agustin and Amber Agustin (Eric Simmons); and a granddaughter Zoey Simmons.

A memorial service was held Friday, September 9 at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

#### CHARLES JAMES BATTEN, SR.



Charles James Batten, Sr., 45, of Hilliard, passed away on September 7, 2022, at his residence. He was born June 3, 1977 in Multnomah County,

Oregon to Charles Batten and Katherine Roberts. After he graduated from high school, he started his longtime career in the food industry. He enjoyed his position as a Kitchen Manager; watching and cheering for the FSU football team; watching scary movies with his awesome daughter Caylen and celebrating his favorite holiday Halloween. Charles met the love of his life, Amanda "Mandy" and they happily married on October 31, 2015. He was a devoted husband, loving father, brother and friend. Charles's greatest joy was spending time with his family and making precious memories. Charles was preceded in death by his son Charles James Batten, Jr.

## **OBITUARIES**

Charles is survived by his loving wife, Amanda "Mandy" Lee Robinson; parents Charles (Joanie) Batten and Katherine (Allen) Stoneberger; daughter Caylen M. Batten; brother Kenneth Batten; and numerous extended family members and

A graveside service was held Monday, September 12 at Swift Creek Cemetery.

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

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

#### DARBARA HITE



Darbara Hite, 77, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 8, 2022 Jacksonville following extended illness. She was born

July 23, 1945, in Columbus, Ohio. Darbara was the daughter of the late Russell Earl and Maxine M. (Pentecost) Hite. She was a graduate of Licking Heights High School, Class of 1963 and attended Hebron Primitive Baptist Church.

Darbara moved to Nassau County in 1972 and was a resident there for more than 25 years before relocating to Jacksonville. Darbara's true joy was being a mother to her three sons. When working outside of the home, she could be found working shift work at local industrial companies. She was also an entrepreneur by using her creative skills to bake cakes for her family and friends. She was a loyal friend to many and always up for a conversation and coffee.

Darbara is survived by her three sons Randell (Lyn) Minor, Kendell (Lori) Wilkinson and Keven (Patches) Wilkinson; her six grandchildren Caitlyn Minor, Brandyn (CJ) Godinez, Courtney and Katie

Wilkinson, Blake (Macky) Wilkinson and Weston Wilkinson; her brother Gailen (Renee) Hite; her nephews Jacob (Yui) Hite and Marshall (Erin) Hite and their children Abraham, Russell, and Eloise.

The family will receive friends Thursday, September 15 at 6 p.m. prior to the memorial service celebrating the life of Darbara at 7 p.m. at Peeples Family Funeral Home, 14165 N Main Street, Jacksonville with Pastor Gerald Wollitz as celebrant.

Arrangements by Peeples Family Funeral Home, Jacksonville, 764-2542.

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

#### ELAINE J. JOHNSON



Elaine J. Johnson, 72, of Waycross, Georgia, formerly of Hilliard, passed away on September 10, 2022, peacefully after a well fought battle with

breast cancer. She was the daughter of Marvin Johns and Leila Raulerson Johns. She was born in Brantley County. She worked and retired from Hilliard Pharmacy after 27 years. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 45 years, Sammy Johnson; and her brother Dwight

Survivors include her two daughters Amanda Bridges (Matthew Williams) of Waycross and Brenda Baumgartner of Jacksonville; three step-daughters Jessamy (Dean) Elsworth of Jacksonville, Carrie (Mark) Young of Orange Park and Trilby Smith of North Carolina; one sister Susan Hallman of Fernandina Beach; one brother Johnny Johns of Hilliard; one sister-in-law Darlene Johns; 16 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Thursday, September 15 at 1 p.m. prior to the memorial service at 2 p.m. at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home with Bro. Monroe Gill officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Hilliard.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Satilla Hospice House in Waycross.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

#### SCOTT RUSSELL SKIPPER



Scott Russell Skipper, 24, of Hilliard, passed away Monday, September 5, 2022. He was born August 15, 1998 in Jacksonville. He loved fishing,

hunting and the outdoors. He was preceded in death by his twin brother Chester Skipper; and his grandparents Peggy Miller, Chester Miller and Rhonda Skipper.

He is survived by his children Kinsley Skipper and Sable Skipper; his parents Scott R. (Christy) Skipper, Sr. and Theresa C. (Jody) Slaton; his sisters Sarah Shaw and Magen Skipper; and his grandfather Leonard Skipper.

The family received friends Monday, September 12 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home. A graveside service was held Tuesday, September 13 in Buford Grove Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. shepardrobersonfh.com.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home, Folkston.

### Obituaries are published free of charge.

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## **VETERANS ASSISTANCE Bob Sullivan**

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## **OBITUARIES**

#### LILA ROSE THOMAS



Lila Rose Thomas, 79, of Callahan, passed away on September 12, 2022, at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville. She was born June 5, 1943, in

Ravenna, Ohio to the late Lucius Daniel Armstrong and Sara Roselyn Burdick Armstrong. As a young woman, Lila was not only a Girl Scout but also an assistant Girl Scout Leader. She attended Florida Community College of Jacksonville, where she earned her CNA and HHA certification. Lila married the love of her life, Lonnie Hardie Thomas, Sr., on April 23, 1965. Together they shared 56 beautiful years of marriage. Lila was a longtime member of Callahan First Baptist Church where she thoroughly enjoyed attending, praising and worshiping her Lord and Savior and was known as the "Hug Lady." She was a devoted wife, loving mother and grandmother who enjoyed spending time with her family. Lila was a treasure to her family and friends and will be greatly missed. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Lonnie Hardie Thomas, Sr.; sister Theda Louise Parker; and brother Harvey Armstrong.

Lila is survived by her children Lonnie Hardy (Sheri) Thomas, Jr. and Josie Caroline Thomas Douglas; grandchildren Chris (Rosalind) Reinolds, Janice (Bobby) Smith, Samantha (Cary) Wicker, Stephanie Douglas and Zachary (Taylor) Thomas; great-grandchildren Micah Reinolds, Kinsey Reinolds, Noah Reinolds, Elijah Reinolds, Isaiah Reinolds, Layton Wicker, Lyvia Wicker, Ruby Wicker and Waylon Thomas; siblings Lucius (Bonnie) Armstrong, Jr., Kathryn Jane Whitaker and Laurel (David) Garn.

Pallbearers will be Chris Reinolds, Zachary Thomas, Kent Thomas, Cary Wicker, Bobby Smith and Taylor Rowe.

The family will receive friends Thursday, September 15 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home. A celebration of Lila's life will be held Friday, September 16 at 11 a.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church with Dr. Lynn Hyatt and Pastor Stephen Peeples officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery in Callahan.

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

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

## Callahan Community Bible Study

Community Bible Study (CBS) is offering a class at Gray Gables Baptist Church in Callahan. Classes are on Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m. This is a 30-week course that meets within the school calendar year. The class will study a collection of Old and New Testament books, Joshua, Job, I & II Timothy, Titus and Colossians. CBS is a nondenominational, caring, in depth Bible study that provides a study book for individual study and a message by a trained teacher. To register, call Dawn at 904-715-0429.

### RETIRED FLAG REMINDER

As fall approaches, be sure to check the condition of your American flag! It may be time to replace your tattered flag with a new one! Retired flags may be brought to the Westside Journal office for proper disposal.

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## Tree Planting Workshop

In recognition of "Florida Forests Week," the Florida Forest Service will be presenting "Production & Residential Tree Planting," a free public workshop Friday, October 28 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The workshop will begin

at the Brock Irrigation and Landscaping business location located at 37021 Crape Myrtle Lane, Hilliard, and will conclude with a live demonstration on nearby timberland owned by Mr. Chad Brock.

Senior Foresters James Tootle and Jon Johnson with the assistance of Mr. Brock, will be providing instructions and live demonstrations of hand planting and machine planting pine trees in a production setting and tree planting techniques when planting shade trees in a residential setting. They will be sharing tips on how to correctly plant trees to promote initial survival and future growth. Whether you are

planting one acre, 40 acres or a single tree, this will be an informative and helpful workshop for all those who attend.

The workshop will be limited to 35 participants. All interested parties need

to RSVP by calling James Tootle at (904) 845-7238 or by emailing: james. tootle@fdacs.gov no later than Monday, October 24 at 5 p.m.

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland, and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. Learn more at FloridaForestService.com.

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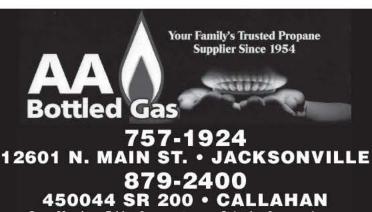
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## The Benefits of Physical Therapy

Katie Connors, Nelson & Associates

From athlete to physical therapist, Joshua Beyl of Advance Rehabilitation Callahan said that physical therapy makes you an active participant in your own healthcare. Beyl said he became interested in the practice after watching the PT in the town he grew up in tape ankles at sporting events. That same PT offered Beyl a job as a tech, evolving Beyl's interest. "Give me that pill or that injection. Those things

make you feel better," said

Beyl. "But in my opinion, they don't get you better."

Florida is a "direct access state." This means you are allowed to go directly to a physical therapist without a physician's referral first and receive treatment for 30 days. Beyl said that he wants others to know that physical therapy is not a one-size-fits-all approach and is not a quick fix. "Your recovery is a journey. I always try to tell my patients that it is not point A to point B in a straight line. Recovery is kind of like a roller coaster. You'll have your ups and downs, your good days and bad days," said Beyl.

Exercise, proper nutrition and sleep patterns are all factors to consider when recovering through physical therapy. From Dynamic warmups, squats, cupping and various exercises, a physical therapist will evaluate your injury and tailor a care plan to meet your specific needs. "Stronger people are harder to kill, and the thing is, people hear that, and they kind of laugh it off. It is actually backed by science," said Beyl.



Joshua Beyl and Katie Connors

Recovery goes beyond the widely known RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) protocol. According to The Sport Journal, there is an "abundance of research that collectively supports the notion that ice and rest does not enhance the recovery process, but instead delays recovery, and may result in further damage to the tissue." Beyl said he is like a coach. He can tell you what to do, but your mindset to get better truly matters. Beyl's goal is to get you back to where you need to be and better. "We are trying to improve that tissue's ability to resist stress," said Beyl.

He wants to know his patient's goals for recovery so that he can find ways to help them meet it, whether to get back to work or back to carrying their child. Beyl said if you need or think you can benefit from physical therapy to reach out to different clinics and see if they can work with your insurance plans.

He said his team is there to help run those benefits for you, so you can start bettering your healthcare. Call his office at (904) 980-0119 to find out more.





## Farming Tips from Louis Jordon

Dawn S. West

With the prices of everything continuing to climb, including groceries, Louis Jordon, of Kings Ferry wanted to share a few tips of gardening from his years of experience. "Many people think they can't grow vegetables because they don't have enough room or property. You must remember to only buy as much as you think you will need," said Mr. Jordon. "From changing my way of planting things, in some ways it has made gardening easier."



with okra and beans as well as okra and greens (two in one pot), making full use of his pots. This also cuts down on the weeds that invade your plants. "Everything must be watered everyday usually late afternoons," added Jordon.

"This is one step that you cannot forget. During these hot days the plants must be watered."

Currently, Mr. Jordon is still cutting okra (cow horn okra) every day. With most people, their okra is already done. Mr. Jordon as come through each pot, cut the okra

and thinned the bushes back. Now the okra bushes have continued to produce healthy okra. The cow horn okra isn't prickly either. You can purchase a 2 pound bag of fresh okra from him for \$10; or 1 pound for \$5. The price is much higher at the grocery store and his is fresh daily. To find out more about his vegetables and planting methods, call Mr. Jordon at 845-2728.





On his property, he had a concrete

slab poured for his children and

grandchildren to play basketball. Many

of us may have a concrete slab or patio

that isn't being used. Mr. Jordon cleared

a 12" border around the entire basketball

court. There he planted purple hull

peas. Next to those he placed a strip

of weeding cloth or mesh all the way

around. On top of the cloth he has pots









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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shoot with Santa Event

The 2nd Annual Shoot with Santa event is drawing near. Last year, we (Westside Journal) didn't get quite enough time to announce the event so that local shooters and sponsors

could join in the fun. The event is held to raise money to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need in Callahan, Hilliard and Bryceville. Each of the local elementary school principals are contacted for names of children that could use an extra boost at Christmas. All monies raised

will go to these families. Last year the event raised over \$19,000 to help make Christmas brighter for many families. Organizers plan to make the event larger every year and are looking for your help!

The event will be held Saturday, December 10 beginning at 9 a.m. at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports, 12125 New Berlin Road. I know we have a lot of hunters in our area and several men and women that enjoy gun sports. This is a time to shoot your gun for the benefit of others.

All sponsors and participants are invited to the Chili Cook-Off Dinner Party with a live band on Friday, December 9 at 6 p.m. at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports.

Following are the opportunities to shoot and sponsor:

Team of 4 shooters, \$800, includes 100 targets, Shells for Shoot and lunch!

> Sponsor: Lunch with your business name displayed

> > Station Sponsor: each sponsor will have their name or business name displayed on a sign at each shooting station that they sponsor. There are 15 stations!

Maybe you aren't really a shooter, however you would like to make a difference in the life of a child at Christmas. You may also just make a donation to the event. In fact, you can drop your donation check off at the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan, and we'll see that it gets to David or Steve. Payment for sponsorships (or donations) may be with cash or checks made out to: Shoot with Santa. This is a special event organized by two local men, David Jackson and Steve Nelson. Let's support this event and shower more children with a special Christmas.

For more information call David at 904-403-7688 or Steve at 904-813-2872.

## O.E.S. 4th Annual Blood Drive

The Callahan Order of the Eastern Star will hold their 4th Annual Blood Drive and Community Event Saturday, September 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. OneBlood will be onsite from 9 a.m. - noon. The event will be held at the Callahan Masonic Lodge behind Callahan Town Hall. There will be vendors; silent auction; blood drive, the Child ID Program and much more!

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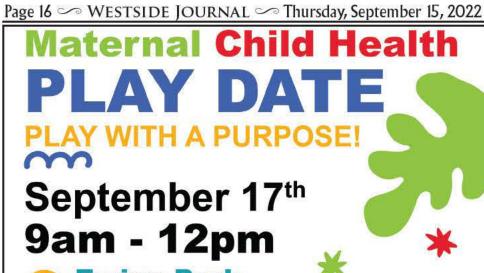
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**Healthy Start** 

The Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (DOH-Nassau), in collaboration with the county health department's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, is offering a free play date with mom talk for all Nassau County residents.

Community members will have the opportunity to learn about services and resources currently available through the county health department to support maternal and child health. DOH-Nassau provides childbirth, breastfeeding and baby care and safety education and support as well as screenings for baby milestones and additional parent education and support. Children's dental services, the WIC nutrition program and family planning services are also offered.



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