



# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

**H** Flashes vs Stanton 7 p.m.

**W** Warriors @ Baldwin 6 p.m.

VOLUME XVII ISSUE 10

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

"TRULY MY SOUL FINDS REST IN GOD; MY SALVATION COMES FROM HIM. TRULY HE IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION; HE IS MY FORTRESS, I WILL NEVER BE SHAKEN." - PSALM 62:1-2

## Nassau County Sheriff's Office Recognizes Employees



2019 Employees of the Year shown (l to r) are Deputy Ronnie Jewell, Kayla Golden, Sergeant Lance McConnell, Communications Officer Joyce Fisher Thigpen, Detective Wayne Herrington, Deputy Lisa McCumber.

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office held their 2019 Employee of the Year Awards Ceremony Thursday, September, 10, 2020 in their Administration Building classroom. The ceremony was delayed several months due to the COVID-19 virus and attendance was limited to allow for social distancing. Several employees were recognized for their outstanding efforts during 2019. "Their dedication and commitment to our community, have placed themselves in harm's way to keep citizens from being harmed; who through their experience have saved a life of a citizen; or through their exceptional and outstanding service have ensured the quality of life all of us have come to expect living in Nassau County," said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

Sheriff Leeper recognized Detention Deputy Charles Gander on his retirement after serving 20 years with NCSO. Three agency promotions were conducted at the ceremony as Captain Jon Slebos was promoted to Director of Corrections and



Detention Deputy Charles Gander receives his certificate of retirement.

Court Security; Deputy Cole Woolard was promoted to Detention Sergeant; and 911 Communications Officer Danielle Rubio was promoted to Communications Sergeant. In addition, Sheriff Leeper recognized Deputy Ryan Goethe, Deputy Brad Knight and



Deputy Ryan Goethe, Deputy Brad Knight and Deputy Trevor Zittrower receive their agency Life Saving Pin.

Deputy Trevor Zittrower for saving the life of an individual.

Several local businesses also partnered with the Sheriff's Office to recognize the award winners as well. They are: Omni Resort Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Hotel at the Beach, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn at the Beach, Comfort Suites Amelia Island and Home2Suites.

The Employees of the Year honored were: Volunteer of the Year Tom Tice; Chaplain of the Year Chaplain David Drake; Civilian Employee of the Year Kayla Golden; Communication Officer of the Year Joyce Fisher Thigpen; Detention Deputy/Bailiff of the Year Ronnie



Promotion Ceremony shown (l to r) are Sergeant Cole Woolard, Director Jon Slebos, Sergeant Danielle Rubio

Jewell; Patrol Deputy of the Year Lisa McCumber; Investigator of the Year Wayne Herrington; and Supervisor of the Year Lance McConnell.

## Student Arrested on Weapons Charges

The keen awareness of a local school teacher may have prevented a tragedy. Caitlin Hygema, a teacher at Lighthouse Christian School in Callahan, observed one of her students this past Thursday carrying two lunch boxes and one seemed heavier than normal. The teacher asked the 12-year-old student to see his lunch boxes and he reluctantly allowed her. She discovered the butt of a gun sticking out of one of the lunch boxes; she maintained possession of the box and immediately turned it over to Lighthouse School Principal Troy Arnold.

Nassau County Deputies responded to the school to investigate the incident. Principle Arnold informed the deputy that other students had been shown the guns. When the deputy opened the lunch box he found a .38 caliber revolver and a sub-compact semi-automatic pistol and two partial boxes of .380 caliber ammunition.

As the deputy was discussing the

criminal elements of the case with school administrators and the student's mother, the student had been placed in a separate room with another deputy. While supervising the student the deputy discovered the student had a third firearm on his person. The deputy quickly secured the third handgun which was a compact semi-automatic .380 caliber pistol, which was loaded with a full magazine but no round in the chamber. School staff searched the student's desk and discovered a drawing of a man outside of a school with guns. The man was surrounded by several dead bodies, covered in red marker signifying blood. The student's response was redacted from the deputy's report. The student was placed under arrest and charged with a felony offense FSS.790.115 (2)(c): Possessing or discharging weapons or firearms at a school sponsored event or on school property.

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### Question?

Dear Editor,  
 This was shared from a post I recently read and is well worth sharing:  
*"Will we wake up one day to communism? Or will we fight the control and censorship radicals need to push their agenda?"*

One of the pastors I represent lived under communism in Romania. He has a chilling message for you today. He saw a five-step plan for how dictators implemented communism in his home country and now he is seeing that same plan being implemented here in America. No longer can we be lulled into thinking that religious people cannot be persecuted, prosecuted and imprisoned in America. I've seen it happen – repeatedly, and with much more frequency this year. My legal team has been working late nights to keep them out of jail. And, we are aggressively on the offense against such tyranny.

Those who fled communism see what's happening in America. These simple words express what I mean: "Learn more. See more." They've been through communism. Their eyes see and their ears hear what many born and raised in a free nation might miss.

The same companies that created digital control and censorship in communist China have started censoring American voices too... by the millions! Being forcibly silenced has never been a part of the American Dream. It is time to wake up. Mat Staver, Chairman – Liberty Counsel Action.

"Don't they realize what is happening now in America is exactly what happened to us in communist Russia? It started with Don't gather. Don't sing. Spread apart. Listen to the government.' Then it quickly turned into full on persecution and the church did not wake up in time. I am here to beg you to call the church to WAKE UP, STAND FIRM, CONQUER," reported Jenny Rose Spauldo.

Wake up America! I chose to fight! I will vote...RED!

Hank Martinez, Sr.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to [news@westsidejournal.net](mailto:news@westsidejournal.net) but must include a complete name. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

### Wake Up People!

Dear Editor,  
 As we approach November 3, Election Day, I have to ask myself, Why would a Christian or even a non-Christian vote for a democrat knowing that part of their platform entails killing unborn babies at will. Matthew 10:14, "Let the little children come unto me and don't prevent them, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

Joe Biden says, he'll give you hospitalization, but if the democrats will kill innocent babies, they'll also kill you while you're in the hospital if they want to (it's called euthanasia). Why would anyone vote for a person who promotes such barbarism? If Biden gets elected, that's what American will look like.

President Donald Trump is the best president America has had since George Washington. The Bible tells us in Genesis 12:3, "If we bless Israel, God will also bless us." (Abraham was a Jew). Trump has supported Israel, more than any previous president! Look at how our economy flourished before the pandemic. No one expected this virus invasion neither could anyone do a better job than Trump. If the democrats would leave him alone, or work with him, there is no telling what he could accomplish with the Lord's help. Vice President Pence is a godly man, a real compliment to the President. If you know how to pray, please pray that these two men will be re-elected November 3!

Biden has been in the political arena in excess of 40 years. Speaking smooth words, which seems music to the ears, and that's all it amounts to. President Trump is a man of action and accomplishments. President Trump doesn't have those smooth words, but he gets it done!

May God/Jesus Bless America and you too!  
 Jack Lewis

### Upcoming Election!

Dear Editor,  
 With this upcoming election, understand our Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights related to our rights. Our Constitution defines and limits the legitimate delegated authority government was provided. The Declaration settled our rights where the People held "these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." The Bill of Rights (Prohibitions) further limited government. Our rights aren't granted by the government at any level, thus the People could uphold government by ensuring no violating those rights through open, free, Common Law courts and juries.

Rights (free speech, bear arms, own property) are God-given to individuals; therefore, the People collectively cannot decide to delegate my or anyone else's rights to government. Any violation of our God-given rights, including government violations with law, mandates, requirements or something else is: Crime! Arguing about fairness and criminality, results in the former as valid, the latter as baseless. Our question is not IF we are "allowed" to do something because this presumes authority by government making the People subservient.

Before voting, ask yourself many questions including: Will these 'servant representatives' uphold and honor their oaths to their office and our Constitution, our God-given rights and we the People? Ask especially whether government was legitimately delegated the authority to do something and when and where

and by what authority. They do not have the authority to rule over, manage, or regulate the behavior in us, the People. If we allow them to do this, then we allow continuous subversion of our Constitution and supporting documents further usurping our rights from every single one of us. Above all, if our Creator God and his son Jesus Christ are not held "in law" as the giver of our rights, then that leaves the government, the majority, or some elite group to do this. We would then have "permissions" and not rights. Permissions can be revoked, given and taken away, or redefined at the whim of whoever grants them; whereas, rights being God-given cannot be taken away.

So VOTE carefully and accordingly if you still want the genuine freedoms to determine our behavior and have ALL of our God-given rights.

Rhonda E. Lowe

### Frustrated!

Dear Editor,  
 A strange thing happened to me last week. I have been a member of VyStar Credit Union for over 20 years. I went to VyStar to make a deposit. I walked in and was making out a slip then I walked up to the teller. The guard yelled out, "You must wear a mask!"

I told him I have trouble breathing while wearing a mask. Then to my surprise a male employee jumped up and yelled to the teller, "Don't take his money. He can go around back."

He actually yelled at me! I am 75 years old...I'm not a child. This man had no respect. I called the main branch and I was told the VyStar in Callahan would call me...actually no call. This shows that this bank does not understand country people.

The man that yelled at me said, "If I wanted to take my business elsewhere that was fine," which I will do. And still VyStar has never called back. I guess times have changed.

Richard Morrissey

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*In the Kitchen...* **Danish Cheese Cake**  
 2 pkg. refrigerated crescent rolls  
 2 - 8 oz. containers cream cheese  
 Topping:  
 3/4 cup confectioners sugar  
 1 tablespoon milk  
 3/4 cup confectioners sugar  
 1 teaspoon milk  
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
 Roll one package crescent rolls out in glass baking dish. Mix cream cheese, milk and sugar together. Spread over rolls. Unroll the second package of crescents on top of first layer. Bake at 400° for exactly 17 minutes. While still warm, pour on topping.

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# Fish Talk

## Weekend Forecast... Tons of Rain

Chris Cockerham, Reel Habit

As a weekend angler, with limited time to focus on fish patterns, many questions come to my mind after multiple days of rain. One in particular that sticks out is where does all this freshwater push our fish. The answer to that question lies right under our nose. Find the shrimp, find the mullet and our fish will be mixed right in with them. If I'm going to attempt to get out, I will always start at the ocean and work my way up river stopping at multiple locations. I'm not going to waste a bunch of time in a certain location but I'm going to cover that area well then move on.

So, where are the fish? Downtown Jacksonville has seen a really good trout bite with a very nice weakfish and croaker mix. Mill Cove is producing good numbers and most all the creeks around Blount Island are following the same. The incoming tide seems to be the tide to fish. Mullet and shrimp are the go to live baits. If in Fernandina, don't pass up Simpson's Creek. It's been producing just as it should for this time of year.

Moving along, red fish are schooling all along our Intracoastal water. Target them with cut baits or your favorite plastics. When spotted, the idea is to throw beyond the fish and bring it back into its path without spooking these fish. Make good choices with your bait presentations and don't spend too much time on any one area. There are great numbers of fish everywhere and they're also killing top water lures.

Lastly, Flounder are getting bigger! They may still be spread out but the bite is heating up. Look for that to only get better throughout September and the month of October. Keep an eye on the docks along Mayport. The bite has heated up from Sisters Creek all the way out to Haulover Creek. Don't forget to drop around the ferry slip, that's all I can say about that.

If you're in Hilliard, stop by and see Lewis at Callie Kay's General Store. Support local, we truly appreciate it. Hope you all have a great weekend, be safe out there and I hope to see you on the water!

## Blood Drive & Child ID Event Saturday, September 19

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. @ Callahan Masonic Lodge

The Callahan Chapter #154 Order of the Eastern Star will host their second annual Blood Drive and Child ID Event Saturday, September 19 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Callahan Masonic Lodge behind Callahan Town Hall. The address is 45085 Brookins Drive, Callahan.

Don Nichols, of the Masonic Lodge, will be on hand to do children IDs and the service will be free. The

Florida Masonic Child ID Program has exemplary volunteers. It is focused on prevention, and provides a kit that enables parents/guardians with the capability to quickly distribute digital information.

OneBlood will also be on hand accepting blood donations. Vendors will be present including Premier Jewelry, Extreme Outdoors, Pampered Chef, Thirty-One, Handmade by Jewel and several craft vendors.

Please wear a mask and hand sanitize as often as possible. CDC social distancing guidelines appreciated. This will be a fun day for the entire family!



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# JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

The civil war is still raging here in America, and yes I fully believe we are in a civil war. I have never witnessed America so divided as she is right now. The war I am speaking of has nothing to do with racial matters but everything to do with democracy and socialism.

The racial unrest along with the white privilege and the anti-law enforcement agendas being played throughout our country are nothing more than battle tactics being utilized by the socialist democrat operatives. When Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in 2016, it totally upended the final phase of the socialist takeover of America. For nearly four years they have been creating any type of front they could use to destroy our President and our Republic. From the Russian collusion hoax to Ukraine to a political impeachment charade to COVID-19 to the funding and support of the BLM movement along with the supporting Antifa agenda, all of these are planned and orchestrated by the socialist democrats.

They have not nor will they stop until one of two things happen. The first would be that they gain control of the White House and Congress. If this happens, we will wake up to an America that will seem as a foreign

third world country. BLM and Antifa will very quickly realize they were just pawns to achieve the socialist elite's agenda. They will no longer serve any purpose and will be totally ignored. The poor will become poorer the middle class will be decimated into poverty and only the rich socialist society will relish their new country. Ask the people of Venezuela if you think I'm wrong.

The second would be that true red blooded Americans stand up and say, "Don't Tread On Me." Right now, social media is full of Americans of all race and religions that are ready to pounce upon the ones trying to destroy our Republic. It's not going to take much more of the liberal agenda to be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

This is why it is so vitally important to VOTE! We have to encourage each other to vote, we need to make sure all of our friends and relatives are properly registered to vote, we need to assist anyone that needs help reaching their voting precinct. The last day one is eligible to register in order to vote in the November Presidential election is October 5th. We as a free nation cannot allow a socialist takeover. VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!

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

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# Journeys of Life

Pastor Ted Heglund, First Alliance Church, Hilliard



We can all think of journeys that we have taken. Every journey is different yet we always want to get to our destination. Have you ever considered the many different roads, paths, highways and streets you have traveled down? We normally prefer to travel down a smooth four-lane highway and without a lot of traffic. Yet not all of our trips/journeys have been easy and smooth.

I think back over the years of where we have gone. Things have taken us on narrow roads with a sheer cliff on one side and dirt mountain roads with such sharp curves you had to backup sometimes to get around them. Some pathways were steep and slippery while others were straight and solid. I remember once where I had to walk carefully following the man in front of me who knew the placement of the log "bridge" which was unseen just below the water level of the marsh.

Life is also a journey that is full of smooth times and times of dangers lurking along the sides. Other times life is such that we have to stop and backup as we deal with issues. Life's journey is not easy when we are faced with the death of a loved one or dear friend. Hard paths are when we lose a job, in an accident; have to deal with a false rumor or the anger of some directed to you.

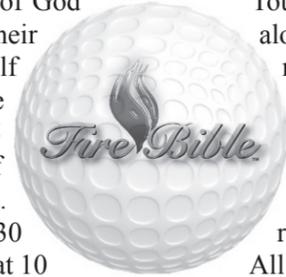
Like every trip/journey it is imperative to make some preparations, know where you're going and what enables you to make that trip. On the journey of everyday life, you need to know the path God has for you. Many people, maybe you, are going through the motions of life but have no purpose, direction or peace. The first step of your life's journey should be to acknowledge you are a sinner and cannot find your way in life. Next, ask Jesus to forgive your sin and be the Lord of your life.

Knowing Jesus as our Savior means we can walk in confidence through the easy and the difficult journeys of life because we know God through Jesus Christ is our strength and guide. We know that, as we trust Jesus He will enable and guide us. Through His Word, the Bible, Jesus gives us direction in how to live, relationships, decision making and, yes, every aspect of our life's journey. We live to do His will for our lives. Never forget what the Psalmist said of the Lord God: "All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies." Psalm 25:10 ESV "My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped." Psalm 17:5 ESV "For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me..." Psalm 31:3 ESV "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps." (1 Peter 2:21 ESV)

There are many more promises of strength for the path of life. Are you walking on the journey of life with the Lord Jesus?

# Fire Bible Golf Tournament

Hilliard First Assembly of God is proud to announce their 4th Annual Fire Bible Golf Tournament which will be held Friday, September 25 at the North Hampton Golf Club in Fernandina Beach. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with tee times starting at 10 a.m.



Tournament and Hole Sponsors along with players are needed to make this event a successful one. Your sponsorship and participation in this event will allow your business to receive publicity and recognition to a worthy cause.

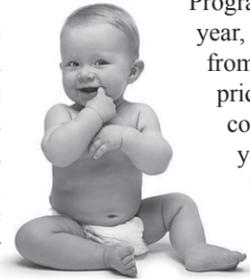
All proceeds are given directly to the Bible Alliance to help purchase Fire Bibles to be distributed overseas to Pastors. Sponsorships include: Platinum: \$1,500; Gold: \$1,000; Silver: \$750; Bronze: \$500; or Hole Sponsor: \$125. Players are \$100 per player or team of 4, \$400.

All sponsorships, player and teams can send registration to: Hilliard First Assembly of God, PO Box 670, Hilliard, FL 32046. For more information or questions, please call the church office, 845-8642 or Pastor Arlie Johns at 904-424-1998. Checks may be made to Hilliard First Assembly of God.

The golf tournament is a fundraiser to purchase Fire Bibles. The Fire Bible is a study Bible that has been translated into many different foreign languages to help pastors in foreign countries to study God's Word. Many of these Pastor's will never have the opportunity to attend a Bible college, which is why these bibles are so important. The study notes in these bibles will help the pastors to properly teach God's word without straying into false doctrine. For more information, visit: [www.firebible.org](http://www.firebible.org).

# Diaper Drive

The Exchange Club of Nassau County is coordinating a countywide Diaper Drive to Benefit The Nest Women's Center and Micah's Place. Any and all size diapers are welcomed. There are donations locations all around Nassau County. The two located in on the Westside are: Westside Journal, 450034 SR 200, Callahan; and the Purple Dove, 450062 SR 200, Callahan. For questions, call Brittany at 904-556-6531.



Programs of Service. Each year, communities benefit from the promotion of pride in our great country, college scholarships, youth mentoring, service to the underprivileged, and other services tailored to serve the needs of its citizens.

The Exchange Club national is a service club that has 3 areas of focus, they are: 1. Americanism, services like providing homes for homeless veterans, suicide prevention. 2. Support for needy children, families and the Child Abuse Prevention Center for NE Florida. 3. Supporting local community needs, like homeless children and families, etc.

Many people agree that the Exchange Club is the greatest service club that nobody's ever heard of! We aim to change that in Nassau County. Visit: [www.nationalexchangeclub.org/](http://www.nationalexchangeclub.org/).

Join us for our online meetings. Please join us in making Nassau County even a better place to live and bring a friend! For more information contact: Bruce Doueck, (904) 718 1361.

Founded in 1911 the Exchange Clubs sponsor activities under the organization's

# CHURCH NEWS

The First United Methodist Church of Callahan will be giving away Prayer Shawls to the community for anyone who is in need, Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9-11 a.m. This will be a first come first serve basis!

Bryceville First Baptist Church will open their Clothes Closet every Thursday through September from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the church. Clothes for every member of the family! In October the closet will be open once a month, October 8 will be the first, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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## TOWN OF HILLIARD PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

The Town of Hilliard is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Parks and Recreation Director. This is a Department Head position. The successful candidate will perform responsible administrative and managerial work for the orderly and efficient operation of the Parks and Recreation Department of the Town including the oversight and long-range planning for all park facilities, recreation programs, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Preferred qualifications include a bachelor's degree with major course work in parks and recreation administration and five years experience in the area of parks and recreation with a minimum of two years in a supervisory position.

We offer you a complete benefits package, including paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, coupled with a great health, dental, vision and life benefits plan and Florida Retirement System. Salary commensurate with qualifications.

The Town of Hilliard is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace. Post-offer physical required. Applications may be picked up at Town Hall located at 15859 West County Road 108, Hilliard, Florida, from 9AM until 5PM, Monday through Friday, or printed from our web page [www.townofhilliard.com](http://www.townofhilliard.com). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

## Callahan Masonic Lodge Raises New Master Mason

Callahan Masonic Lodge #32 members recently Raised Brother Jeremy Schrouder to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason or the 3rd Degree in Freemasonry. Presiding in the East was Worshipful Brian Jahay during the First Section of the Master Mason Degree and Past Master Will Payne during the Second Section.



Shown (l to r) are: Paul Potrok, John Wayne Nelson, Gary Burchfield, Robbie Stewart, Mark Ballister, Ben Derr, Don Hubbard, Jeremy Shrouder, Brian Jahay, Qvention Register, Eddie Bides, Charles Pope, Glenn Miller, John Page, Tom Siebers, Jim Ottinger, Will Payne, AJ Wright and Dan Hare.

## FSCJ Receives Grant for Workforce Training

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) was recently awarded a grant from Bank of America that will cover the course fees and tuition for 20 students to participate in the Northeast Florida Environmental Workforce Training Program. The program was developed to prepare students for long-term careers in occupational and environmental safety.

The training program can be completed in less than eight weeks and, upon completion, participants will earn in-demand certifications and certificates in HAZWOPER 40, OSHA 30 General Industry, American Heart Association Basic Life Support and Florida Ready

to Work.

“We are grateful to Bank of America for their commitment to our institution and the future of our community,” said FSCJ President John Avendano, Ph.D. “With their support, these students will be doing much more than receiving education, training and the necessary certifications to step into a job. They’re also building a bright future for themselves and their families that they may have never thought to be possible.”

The first classes began September 14. To learn more about the individual classes, visit: [fscj.edu/academics/workforce-education/cwe/ocsafe](http://fscj.edu/academics/workforce-education/cwe/ocsafe). To apply, email: [workforceops@fscj.edu](mailto:workforceops@fscj.edu).



## WNHS Hall of Fame Applications Available



West Nassau High School is currently accepting nominations for their Hall of Fame for the school. Nomination forms can be picked up at the school or printed from the school website. Applications are due by September 25, 2020.

Persons to be nominated should include the following: Athletic, professional, or community accomplishments. For athletic accomplishments, please include all sports played at WNHS, college, or professional leagues and any major accomplishments. For professional or trade accomplishments, please list any distinguished titles, accomplishments or awards that have led to or indicate professional success. For community service or leadership, list any public offices held, honors, or awards received. Please return completed form to: WNHS, Attn: Randalyn Bryant, One Warrior Drive, Callahan, FL 32011 or email: [BryantRa@nassau.k12.fl.us](mailto:BryantRa@nassau.k12.fl.us).

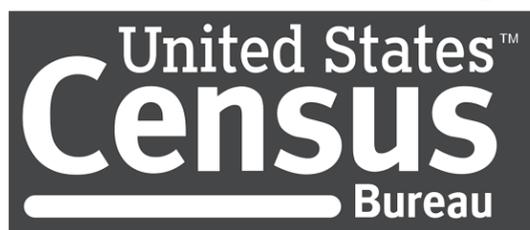
Last year’s Hall of Fame inductees were: Coach Allen Kirk, Rose Way, Don Hagan, the late Emmitt G. Coakley and Mitchell Spearrin.

Hall of Fame Criteria: In order to be inducted, an individual, living or passed, must meet the following criteria: 1. A Graduate from WNHS, at least 10 school years prior to the current one; and/or 2. Served as a staff member at WNHS for a minimum of 15 years and have been retired for a minimum of 5 school years—staff members may be considered for inclusion for accomplishments outside of their duties as a WNHS staff member or coach at any time.

A committee will be chosen to consider all of the applicants. Applications are good for 5 years.

## Reminder: Census Takers Need Help!

Census representatives are going door to door to help citizens to complete their census information to help to improve our county. The representatives have official identification that will be shown when they come to your door. All information is confidential and is only shared with the Census Bureau. The interview only takes about 10 minutes. Please be courteous.

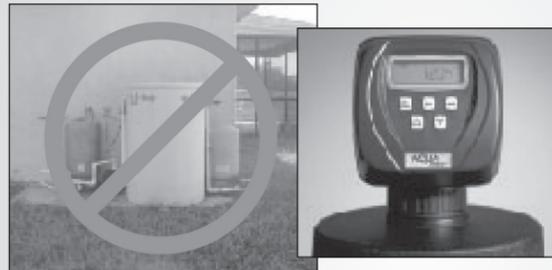


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# New Beginnings and Milestones

## Mr. and Mrs. Joe Owens



Hollie Marie Davis and Joseph Rodney Owens, Jr. were united in marriage July 10, 2020 at 6 p.m. at River Road Baptist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Bubba and Mary Ann Davis of Hilliard. She is employed with Camden County Schools. The groom is the son of Norma and Joseph Owens, Sr. of Bryceville. He is employed by InterCool USA.

Serving as a bridesmaids were Shellie Davis and Breanna Higginbotham. Following a honeymoon trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, the couple is residing in Yulee.

## Congratulations

### AIC CHASE A. MITCHELL

Congratulations to AIC Chase A. Mitchell for completion of his Air Force Basic Training at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas and his Tech I Fire Academy at Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo Texas. Chase was among the first class to face the challenges of the outbreak of the pandemic during his military training. In fact, his graduation and other achievements were seen by video by family members because they were not allowed to attend. He is currently stationed at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as a Firefighter.



Chase is a 2019 graduate of West Nassau High School. His entire family is so proud of his many accomplishments and they love him so much! His proud father is Shawn Mitchell; grandmother Lynda Mitchell; brother Carsen Mitchell; mother Regina Mitchell; and uncle Chuck & Cindy Mitchell and many other family members!

## Patriot Day Celebrated at CES

Callahan Elementary School celebrated Patriot Day last Friday, September 11. They began the morning with Mrs. Alma Williamson, PE teacher and Mr. Allen, Music teacher, explaining the difference between Patriot Day and Patriots Day and how we remember the Heroes on this day and cannot forget the sacrifice they made for our country. After the announcements each class was given individual Flags to plant in front of the school throughout the day!



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 1 Pkg. Meaty Spare Ribs  
 2 Pkgs. Country Sliced Bacon  
 10 - 1/4 lb. Chopped Chuck Patties  
 2 Pkgs. Lean Short Rib Stew  
 10 - Tender, Lean Cubed Steaks  
 10 - Pork Chops or Pork Steaks  
 1 - Beef Roast  
 2 - 1 lb. Pkgs. Country Pan Sausage

**2-pack Fresh PORK BUTTS**  

**\$1.00** lb.  
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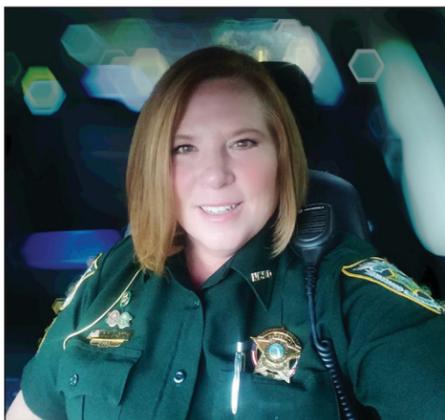
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## BEHIND THE BADGE: Sergeant Dee Gaston

I'm Sergeant Dee Gaston with Nassau County Sheriff's Office. I've been employed with the Sheriff's Office for 25 years. I started my career in law enforcement in 1989 with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. I started out in corrections then in 1993 went to the crossover. In 1995, I came to NCSO. Most of my career was as a Detective and Sex Crime Detective. I took the sergeant's test and now I'm Sergeant on Patrol. The guys that I have are actually pretty cool. They make my job easy and of course, I think I have the best team. I have some that are pretty experienced some with 30 plus years in law enforcement and then I have some new ones.

The fun part is watching the guys grow, especially the new ones. The more they learn the better they are at doing their job and that's nice to see. I did experience an obstacle when I came to patrol. There was one deputy out here, who's no longer with us, that felt that females should be at home not in law enforcement. He wouldn't even speak to me if we would go on a call he wouldn't even acknowledge that I was there. But through perseverance, him seeing me and reading my reports, he found out she does know what she's doing! It got to the point before he left where he would hand me his report. This is, of course, back when they were handwritten, he would hand me his report and ask me to review his report before he turned it



in to the Sergeant. That was an amazing feeling to know that through my actions and the way I handled and carried myself it completely changed his mind. That was a long time ago and with this administration I definitely have not had any problems.

To the little girls, don't let anybody tell you that you can't be a deputy. Yes you can! You can do whatever you put your mind to. Whatever your dream is, only you can make that happen. What I've learned in 30 years' experience in law enforcement is that you can't always judge a book by its cover. Always expect the unexpected out of people. Lots of people hate the police lately. We're not bad! We're here to help you just as any other profession. There are some bad ones and they get weeded out but the majority of us are good. All we're trying to do is do our job and help you and help the community!



## West Nassau Beats Yulee

The West Nassau Warriors hosted county rival Yulee Hornets for a showdown last Friday night. Dodging many rain showers throughout the evening the battle wasn't pretty but was a win for the Warriors 7-0. The game, as you can see by the score was a defensive battle!



The Warriors pulled out the only score of the night in the second quarter with Jesse Rochay punching the ball in the end zone. Devon McDuffie added the extra point giving the Warriors the win!



Offensively for the Warriors, Rochay tallied up 16 carries for 91 yards for the night; Conner Nobles had 10 carries for



96 yards; Chaz Davis had 9 carries for 77; and Brady Wright had 12 carries for 68 yards. From the stats, the Warriors were moving the ball but they faced a tough defense on the other side.

On the defensive side for the Warriors, they held tough not allowing any points for the Hornets. Leaders for the defense were: Christian Bailey, Prentiss Davis, Conner Nobles, Brady Holton and Carson Murray, all had 3 tackles; Chaz Davis, Leondrel Whitley, Michael Thorn and Jackson Rowell, each had 2 tackles.

This week, the Warriors will travel to face the Baldwin Indians with a 6 p.m. kick off!



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**HUGE SALE!** Thursday, Friday & Saturday, September 17, 18 & 19 (next week), 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., 28143 Arrow Lane, Hilliard, off of Andrews Road. Generator, crafts, household items, men's and women's items & much more! Too much to list.

**MULTI-FAMILY,** Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., 54544 Church Road, Callahan. Boys & women's clothes, home décor, toys, lots of Lego's & much more! Rain or shine!

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 541668 US Hwy. 1, Callahan, **FALL GARAGE SALE,** Saturday, September 26 and Saturday, October 3 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Church parking lot. There will be garage sale items and bake goods for sale. For more information call (904) 879-3662. 100120

**FOR RENT**

**STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE** for \$99.99/month at AXIS PLEX in Callahan, to residents and the public. Call 879-5495 or email info@axisplex.com. tfn

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**NEW POPEYE'S COMING SOON!** Seeking employees to join our team for surrounding areas: Callahan and Duval Station Rd., Jacksonville. Apply at https://recruiting.talentreef.com/popeyes-sailormen-inc. or contact 904-306-6112. 92420

Callahan First Baptist Church is now accepting applications for a **MAINTENANCE POSITION.** This is a full-time position. If you are interested in this position, please come by the church office at 45090 Green Avenue, Callahan and fill out an application. 102920

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## Library Visits by Appointment

The Nassau County Public Library System is open for visits at the Fernandina Beach, Callahan and Hilliard Branch Libraries. Library visits are by appointment only and are for one hour. The Bryceville and Yulee Branches will continue to provide Curbside Services. For library visits, guidelines as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are being followed. All customers and staff members must submit to a touchless temperature check, answer a COVID-19 screening questionnaire, and wear a mask at all times while in the library. Some rooms are closed, and some furnishings have been relocated to help guide residents and allow staff to clean and sanitize where possible.

Public computers that are appropriately distanced are available for use. All branches will continue to offer Curbside Services. Passport processing continues at the Fernandina Beach Branch by appointment only. For questions and appointments, please call 904-530-6500.

### Callahan Branch

Library Visits: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.  
Tuesday 1 - 7 p.m.  
Curbside continues: Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Hilliard Branch

Library Visits: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.  
Thursday 1-7 p.m.  
Curbside continues: Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Bryceville Branch

**CURBSIDE PICKUP SERVICE ONLY**  
Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
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## Do you have a Library Card?

September is National Library Card Sign-up Month. This year, DC's Wonder Woman is serving as the Honorary Chair with the theme of "Libraries are Wonderful." Wonder Woman is a founding member of the Justice League and is known for strength, compassion and truth. Armed with the Lasso of Truth, Wonder Woman makes a perfect ambassador to support the value of learning and the role libraries play in transforming lives and strengthening communities through education.

Celebrate National Library Card Sign-up Month by visiting the Nassau County Public Library System's website, [www.nassaureads.com](http://www.nassaureads.com) for information on curbside services or make an appointment to visit in person during special hours. Your library card gives you access to Cloud Library e-books, Hoopla's digital movies, music, e-audiobooks, comics, and much more. Need help with online school

subjects? Your library card opens the door to homework help through learning resources for educators and parents. Need an online Storytime for a preschooler? Looking for valid health and nutrition information? Need to change your business plan or interested in entrepreneurship? Thinking about a new career? Need to brush up on your computer skills? How about information on a new hobby? Genealogy? What are the new bestsellers, and what is happening at the Library? How about a getaway by taking a virtual field trip or a tour of the Timucuan Parks Exhibit?

All you need is a free library card to lasso all these resources. Don't have a library card? No problem. You may apply online with appropriate identification or make an appointment at the Callahan, Hilliard or Fernandina Beach Branch Libraries. For more information, call 904-530-6500 and select your local library branch.

## 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.*

### Monday, August 31

Konnor Dale Andrews, 27, 54337 Lisa Drive, Callahan: DUI with Property Damage Injury

### Monday, September 7

Cody Aaron Kea McCullough, 25, 45284 Dixie Avenue, Callahan: Out of County Warrant Failure to Appear DUI with Property Damage/Injury

Madison Grace Pinkston, 19, 22406 CR 121, Hilliard: Battery Domestic Violence

### Sunday, September 13

Stephanie Faith Ayers, 38, 43436 Ratliff Road, Callahan: St. Johns County Warrant Violation of Probation Reckless Driving

John Briggs Crosby, 63, 43239 Ratliff Road, Callahan: Criminal Mischief less than \$200; Violation of Injunction Protected Order

## Thank You from Take Stock in Children

A special thank you to the Rayonier Advanced Materials Foundation for supporting Take Stock in Children of Nassau, Inc. through their annual community grants! The Foundation's \$2500 grant will help us continue to meet the needs of our deserving students. We are grateful for their ongoing support of our scholarship and mentor programs for low-income academically promising young students.

The Rayonier Advanced Materials Foundation is a private, charitable organization committed to improving the quality of life in their local communities. Since 2000, the Foundation has made nearly \$8.5 million in grants to non-profit agencies in the areas of education, culture, natural resources



and environment, civic and human services, and health and hospitals. Beyond financial giving, the company has community advisory councils to foster open communications with our neighbors and local community leaders.

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**BRENDA JOYCE CABAL**

Brenda Joyce Cabal, 61, of Callahan, went home to be with the Lord September 8, 2020. Brenda was born in Jacksonville on July 29, 1959 to the late Lewis and Roberta Edwards. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She will be dearly missed.

In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her brother Dale Edwards and Frances 'Frannie' Herrin.

She is survived by her loving husband of 45 years, Angel Pader Cabal, Sr.; sons Angel, Jr. and Enrico Cabal; daughter Ashley Neiman; brothers Leslie, David and Danny Edwards; sister Lyn Neiman; and four grandchildren Zoey, Tristan, Karizma and Zayden.

A memorial service was held Friday, September 11.

Callahan Funeral Home handled arrangements, 879-2336.

Condolences may be expressed at: [www.callahanfh.com](http://www.callahanfh.com).

**ALICE THOMPSON CRAWFORD**



Alice Missouri Thompson Crawford, 91, of St. George, Georgia, passed away Friday, September 11, 2020. She was born August 24, 1929 in St. George, to the late Fred and Lettie Stokes Thompson. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of St. George where she served as Secretary/Treasurer for a number of years. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her son Ray Crawford; her sisters Millie Sikes, Jewel Rowe and Lois Roberson; brothers Junior Thompson, Robert Thompson, Lamar Thompson and Dewitt Thompson.

She is survived by her husband of 74 years, Leaman Crawford; her daughters: Joan (Tony) Dority and Patricia (Tommy) Bryant; her sons: Pete Crawford, Ralph (Sue) Crawford and Randy (Sueann) Crawford; brother Sherman Thompson; grandchildren Brian Carver, Greg Crawford, Jeffrey Crawford, Clint (Tonya) Crawford, Bart (Jenny) Crawford, Brenda Lloyd, Andy Dority, Chris (Molly) Crawford, Mandy (Grover) Rhoden, Robert (Courtney) Bryant, Carrie Bryant, Zeke (Danielle) Bryant and Stephanie Lofgren; 19-great grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

The family received friends prior to the funeral service held Tuesday, September 15 at the First Baptist Church Social Hall of St. George with Rev. Ray McMillan officiating. Burial followed in Boones Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Greg Crawford, Jeffrey Crawford, Clint Crawford, Bart Crawford, Andy Dority, Chris Crawford, Robert Bryant, Zeke Bryant, Marcus Lloyd and Daniel Lloyd.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.shepardfh.com](http://www.shepardfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston, Georgia.

**BILLY CREWS**



Billy Crews, 77, of Bryceville, passed away on September 15, 2020. Billy was born in Bryceville, on June 26, 1943 to the late William M. Crews and

# OBITUARIES

Myrtle Alice Carroll Crews. Billy joined the United States Army and proudly served his country from 1967-1969 during the Vietnam War. He also enjoyed his long-time career in pulp wooding and logging and was also a wrecker driver for Callahan Paint & Body. Billy was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. He will be dearly missed.

Billy is preceded in death by his parents; his son Billy Joe Crews; his brothers Fuller Warren Crews, William Faye Crews, Roy Lee Crews, Tufik John Crews, James Donnie Crews and Ronnie Crews; and his sisters Wilma Padgett, Verna Plummer, Jeanette Malley, Shirley Rountree, and Stacie Geck.

Billy is survived by his wife Dorothy Elaine Crews; his daughter Teresa Crews Folk of Bryceville; his grandson William (Danielle) Crews of Hilliard; his granddaughter Caitlin (Jeremy) Folk-Neubauer of Green Cove Springs; and his great-grandchildren Brendan, Chloe and Bella Crews of Hilliard.

A Celebration of Billy's Life will be held Friday, September 18 at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Josh Johns officiating. The family will receive friends Thursday, September 17 from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Verdie Cemetery in Bryceville.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**JOSEPH 'TOMMY' ERWIN, III**



Joseph Thomas 'Tommy' Erwin, III, 68, of Jacksonville, passed away on September 9, 2020. Tommy was born in Jacksonville, to the late Joseph Thomas Erwin, Jr. and Dorothy Davis. He lived there all his life and was a member of New Beginnings Ministries Church. He married the love of his life, Elizabeth Annette Knowles, and they shared 40 beautiful years together. Tommy was a hard worker and he ran his own courier service. Outside of his day job, he also enjoyed doing tractor work. When he did have time off, he liked to spend it hunting, fishing, and watching western movies. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and he will be dearly missed. Tommy is preceded in death by his parents; and his brother Kenneth James Erwin.

Tommy is survived by his wife, Annette Knowles Erwin; his children Neal (Lisa) Erwin, Jeramie (Michele) Erwin, L.J. Erwin, Scott (Brooke) Erwin and April (Dan) Moody, all of Jacksonville and Dale (Kim) Erwin of Sanderson; his brothers Johnny Erwin, Ricky (Vicki) Erwin and Kevin (Debbie) Erwin; his sisters Rachel (Adrian) Willis and Tammy Nobles; his 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Tommy's Life will be held Saturday, September 19 at noon at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Ernest

Tatam, Pastor Bill Horne and Pastor Melvin Schemer officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 10 a.m. - noon. Interment will follow at Edgewood Cemetery.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**JAMES 'JIM' HERRINGTON**



Born February 14, 1950, James 'Jim' Herrington passed away on September 2, 2020 at the age of 70. He worked in construction until he retired.

He had a passion for horses as a young boy and loved to ride and train them throughout his life. Jim loved to read and you never saw him without a book in his hand. His favorite was the Bible. He was also an avid beekeeper.

Jim is preceded in death by his father James O. Herrington and his mother Claudine Brooker Boulanger; and his brother Curtis Herrington.

He leaves behind his daughter Fawna Herrington; his son Rivers (Jackie) Herrington; his granddaughter Kordelia Herrington; his siblings Drexel Herrington, Scheryl (Jeff) Fazan, Annette Gammon and Jannette (Dave) Harmon; and his numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A viewing to celebrate Jim's life was held Thursday, September 10 at the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel prior to the graveside service held at Rose Hill Cemetery in Alma, Georgia.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**DOROTHY BRADDOCK HICKEY**



Dorothy Braddock Hickey, 93, of Hilliard, passed away on September 7, 2020 with her loving family by her side. Dorothy was born on December 5, 1926 in Sanford, Florida to the late A.W. Trawick and Estelle Lewis Trawick. She grew up in Orlando, and moved to the Jacksonville area in 1939. Dorothy devoted her life to her family and provided a warm and loving home for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her parents; her late husband Walter Hickey; her siblings; and her grandson Mel Fouraker.

Dorothy is survived by her daughters, Beverly (George) Fencik, Norma (Melvin) Fouraker, Joyce (Ricky) Fouraker and Teresa (Frankie) Gonzalez, all of Callahan; her grandchildren Karen Brantley, Kristie Money, Billy Fouraker, Jason Fouraker, Brandon Fouraker, Kayla Gonzalez, Megan Gonzalez Holden, Jarod Gonzalez, Dallas Gonzalez, Blaze Gonzalez, Alicia Gonzalez and Chad Fencik; and her numerous great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Dorothy's Life was held graveside Thursday, September 10 at Live Oak Baptist Church Cemetery with Pastor Charlie May officiating.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

**WILLIAM GARY JOHNSON**



William Gary Johnson, 68, of Folkston, passed away at his residence September 7, 2020. He was born March 24, 1952 to the late William Joshua 'Bill'

Johnson and Betty Louise Sikes Johnson Carter. He was a truck driver and logger most of his life. Along with his parents; he was preceded in death by three brothers Randy Johnson, Teddy Johnson and Stanley Johnson; and his brother-in-law Robin Lloyd.

He is survived by his children Christy Spurlock, Kenny (Alisa) Lee, Wayne (Samantha) Crews and William 'Jamie' Johnson; three sisters Margaret (Sidney) Haddock, Betty Jean (Eddie) Conner and Darlene Lloyd; two brothers Allen (Jennifer) Carter and Don (Lynn) Johnson; grandchildren Tori Spurlock, Tracer Spurlock, Taylin Spurlock, Jake Gowen, Jesse Gowen, Josh Turner, Dustin Lee, Tyler Lee, Destiny Crews, Jadan Crews, Kaitlyn Crews, Safiya Johnson, Inny Johnson and Laelah Johnson; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Thursday, September 10 at the Chesser Family Cemetery with Rev. Ricky Dyal officiating.

Pallbearers were Josh Turner, Tyler Lee, Dustin Lee, Richard Honeycutt, Kase Ford and Caleal Burroughs. Honorary pallbearers were Sidney Haddock, Eddie Conner, Allen Carter, Don Johnson, Byron Pressley and Robert Carter.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.shepardfh.com](http://www.shepardfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

**FRANKLIN 'GENE' LOYD**



Franklin 'Gene' Eugene Loyd, 81, of Hilliard, passed away on September 8, 2020 with his loving family by his side. Gene was born on

September 22, 1938 in Alapaha, Georgia, to the late Robert Lee Loyd and Gladys Lucas Loyd. Gene married the love of his life, Hilda Vickers, and they spent 61 beautiful years together. Gene worked as a self-employed electrician for 25 years before he retired in 2003. He was an outdoorsman who loved nature and enjoyed hunting and creative woodworking. Most of all, Gene loved spending time with his family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be dearly missed.

Gene is survived by his wife, Hilda Loyd; his son Franklin 'Lin' (Trina) Loyd, Jr.; his daughters Kellie (Nathan) Sweat, Shellie Rowan and Susan (Phil) Smith; his brother Hardy Loyd; his 10 grandchildren; and his three great-grandchildren.

The family received friends prior to the

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graveside service held Friday, September 11 at Kings Ferry Cemetery with Pastor Marvin Lee officiating.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

### JULIAN JOHN LUCERO

 Mr. Julian 'Jr.' John Lucero, 81, of Florahome, passed away at his home Wednesday, September 9, 2020, following an extended illness. He was born August 15, 1939, in San Luis, Colorado to Julian and Carlota (Cardenas) Lucero. Mr. Lucero served 10 years in the United States Navy and fought in the Vietnam War while serving in the United States Army. Prior to retirement he was employed with Jefferson-Smurfit as a Supervisor; he and his wife also owned and operated Nanna's Café in Middleburg and Interlachen where he loved meeting and greeting all those that visited. Mr. Lucero was a member of Oak Avenue Baptist Church in Florahome. He enjoyed fishing, especially with his grandchildren and he was an avid Georgia Bulldog fan.

In addition to his parents; he was also preceded in death by his granddaughter Kimberly Gillespie; great-grandson Anterious Miller; a sister Alene; and a brother Adolph.

Survivors are his loving and dedicated wife of 28 years, Barbara (White) Lucero; nine children Sam (Jennifer) Lucero, Randy (Angel) Lucero, Carla (James) Thomas, Dede (Tommy) Cohen, Dawn Bass, Debra Ervin, Juannell (Larry) Cunningham, Maggie (Paul) Keck and Lisa (Dennis) Brown; five siblings Virgil, Art, Leroy, Josie and Laurie; and was lovingly called "Papa" by multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mr. Lucero were held Saturday, September 12 in Oak Avenue Baptist Church in Florahome with Pastor Tim Plymel officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Interment was held at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Haven Hospice, 6400 St. Johns Ave., Palatka, FL 32177.

Condolences may be expressed at: [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).

Arrangements by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, (352) 473-3176.

### JAMES RICHARD MAY, JR.

 James Richard May, Jr., 69, of Hilliard, passed away on September 12, 2020. He was born on December 31, 1950 in Highland Park, Michigan

to James Richard May and Mary Ann Potts. James proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He was an avid gardener, candle maker and animal lover. He loved looking at pictures of the Northern Lights. He was a huge Trump supporter and an avid Florida Gators and Jacksonville Jaguars fan. James loved the Lord and was a member of River Road Baptist Church. He was a very patriotic, simple man who loved life. He will be dearly missed.

# OBITUARIES

James enjoyed this special poem which is as follows: "I am not perfect. I say stupid things sometimes. I laugh when I'm not supposed to. I have scars left by people who did me wrong. I'm a little crazy and probably won't change. Love me or not. But I make one promise, that if I love you, I do it with a full heart."

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

### JAMES 'ROBBIE' ROBINSON

 James "Robbie" Harold Robinson, 92, of Callahan, passed away on September 10, 2020 at the Warner Community Hospice in Fernandina Beach. He was born on June 4, 1928 in Folkston, Georgia, and was raised in Hilliard. After serving in the United States Marine Corps, Robbie returned home to Hilliard, where he met and married the love of his life, Genevieve. Robbie was Callahan's rural mail carrier for many years during his 37 year career with the United States Postal Service. Robbie is predeceased by his wife of 72 years, Genevieve "Gennie" Robinson.

Robbie is survived by his son Hal (Marcia) Robinson of Fernandina Beach; his daughters Elaine (Marvin) Leininger of Fernandina Beach and Diane Millar of Daphne, Alabama; his grandchildren Melissa Robinson of Fernandina and Miles Millar of Portland, Oregon; his great-granddaughter Megan Robinson; and his sister-in-law Yvonne (Jim) Reid.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

### JOHNNY WAYNE ROBINSON

 Johnny Wayne Robinson, 70, of St. George, Georgia, passed away Saturday, September 12, 2020 in Jacksonville. He was born July 30, 1950 in St. George, to the late Cecil Glenn Robinson and Eva Beatrice Rhoden Robinson. He was a member of New Life Baptist Church in St. George.

Along with his parents; he was preceded in death by a sister Betty Jean Robinson; his brother-in-law L.D. Johnson; and a sister-in-law Judy Robinson.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Susan Snowden Robinson; four children Eric (Candace) Robinson, Kayleah (Heather) Robinson, Wayne (Rachel) Robinson and Lisa Hagin; his siblings Helen Johnson, Jean (Mike) Kennedy and Glenn Robinson; seven grandchildren including his special little buddy Bentley "Ben Brewsky"; and a number of great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life service was held Wednesday, September 16 at New Life Baptist Church with Rev. James Conner,

Rev. Donnie Williams and Rev. Rusty Bryan officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

Memorialization will be by cremation.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.shepardfh.com](http://www.shepardfh.com).

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston, Georgia.

### VICKIE ROBINSON SIMMONS

 Vickie Sue Robinson Simmons, 73, was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 after a brief illness. She was born April 21, 1947 in Jacksonville, to the late Thomas James Robinson and Kathryn Cobb Robinson. She was a graduate of Baldwin High School Class of 1965 and resided in Hilliard since 1972. Vickie was a retired employee of the Nassau County School District giving more than 30 years of service. She worked as a Data Processor and was known by most that walked through the front office of Hilliard Elementary School. She was an active and faithful member of Gateway to Life Ministries. She and her husband Robert dedicated much of their time to Ravens of Elijah (Kingsland, GA) and Gateway to Life Food Ministry (Hilliard). She truly enjoyed serving her community and helping those in need. Vickie was a faithful servant of God and gladly shared her love for Christ with all she knew. She will be remembered for her sweet and kind heart who always put others first. She met the love of her life when she was just 13 years old and they were happily married for 55 years. Vickie dearly loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and was always eager to show off the latest photos of her loves.

She is survived by her loving husband, Robert L. Simmons; two daughters Michelle (Charles) Plybon and Melissa (Clifton) Thomas; one sister Janie (John) Loftus; five grandchildren, Jamie (Heather) Simmons, Heith (Kodie) Plybon, Tyler Plybon, Ireland Dodd and Cross Thomas; four great-grandchildren Graylin, Brooklyn, Lee and Elle; many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and hosts of friends. She is preceded in death by her parents Thomas James Robinson and Kathryn Cobb Robinson; sisters Foy Ann Robinson Blair and Mary Harris Robinson.

The family will receive friends Saturday, September 19 from 10-11 a.m. prior to the Celebration of Life Service beginning at 11 a.m. at Gateway to Life Ministries, 37837 Eastwood Road, Hilliard, with Pastor Bruce Cabbage officiating.

Due to the pandemic, masks and social distancing are encouraged if attending.

Arrangements by Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home in Folkston.

Condolences may be expressed at: [www.shepardfh.com](http://www.shepardfh.com).

### SABRINA LYNN SMITH



Sabrina Lynn Smith, 46, of Callahan, passed away on September 12, 2020. She was born on July 30, 1974 in Orange Park, to Marrell Cery, Sr. and Mary Sue Taylor. Sabrina enjoyed her career in food service, working mostly as an assistant manager, but also as a cook for the Life Care Center of Hilliard. She was a fun-loving spirit, and on her days off, she enjoyed shopping, getting her nails done, coloring in coloring books and camping. Most of all, Sabrina loved doing anything that let her spend time with her family. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all who knew her. Her grandson, Aidan, was her world. She will be dearly missed.

Sabrina is survived by her loving husband, Jason David Smith; her father Marrell (Debbie) Cery, Sr.; her mother Mary Sue (Dennis) Swanson; her son John Dylan Cery; her daughters Taylor Lynn Cery and Tiffany LeAnn Smith; her brothers Marrell Cery, Jr., Paul M. Cery and Scott D. Cery; her sisters Sonya L. Cery and Holli (Justin) Roberts; her grandson Aiden Dylan Cery; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

A private celebration of Sabrina's Life will be held for the family at Nassau Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Peoria Cemetery, Orange Park.

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

Visit [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com) to sign the family's guest book.

### RAY DRAKE TOUCHTON



Mr. Ray Drake 'Dusty' Touchton, 72, of Jacksonville, passed away Sunday, September 6, 2020. A Jacksonville native, he was born to the late Alonzo

 and Eloise Harrison Touchton and was a 1968 Baldwin High School graduate. Mr. Touchton was a decorated United States Army Veteran having received three bronze stars and several other medals and commendations for his service in Vietnam. Upon return from service he became a Firefighter and served 25 years at Cecil Field Air Station. Mr. Touchton was a member of New Mt. Zion Baptist Church and loved serving the Lord by volunteering at the church's food bank. He was an avid fisherman, enjoyed camping and was known to drive fast and "race" cars. He will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Glenda Wright Touchton; brother Franklin "Gene" (Deborah) Touchton; sister Sheri (Shawn) Young; and numerous other family members and friends.

Funeral service with military honors will be held Friday, September 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Rev. Gene Dillon officiating.

Warren Funeral Services is serving the Touchton family.

Please leave condolences at [www.warrenfuneralservices.com](http://www.warrenfuneralservices.com).

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# Flashes Overcome to Beat Eagles

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Feeling confident from their opening win, the Hilliard Flashes looked to keep the momentum rolling as they traveled to face the Paxon Golden Eagles. Coming into the game, the Flashes brought the lightning, both figuratively and literally, as the game was delayed for 2 hours because of lightning in the area.



After the delay, the Flashes began the game on defense. The Eagles had a promising drive going, but the Flashes stood tall and put an end to the drive with a fourth down stop. Looking to capitalize on the momentum from the defense, the Flashes orchestrated a drive of their own, taking full advantage of the short field. But the Eagles' defense repaid the favor and stopped the Flashes drive on 4th down. The Eagles' offense began to roll with an explosive play that set up an 8-yard touchdown run. With the extra point good, the Eagles jumped out to an early 7-0 lead at the end of the 1st quarter. The Eagles kept all the momentum for themselves, but it didn't last very long as the Flashes ended the drive and forced a missed field goal.



The Flashes offense took advantage and was able to respond when Tywuan Lee found a crease and outraced the Eagles defense for a 55-yard touchdown run. After a missed extra point, the Flashes found themselves coming back, but still trailed 7-6 heading into halftime.

Looking to regain the momentum, the Flashes picked up the pace. After both defenses made stands, the Flashes decided to take matters into their own hands, using the ground game to march down the field and gash the Eagles defense. Lyle Bennett added a 1-yard touchdown run off the quarterback sneak and Lee's improvised 2-point conversion, the Flashes took their first lead of the night, 14-7. This became the turning point for the Flashes for the remainder of the game. The Flashes came back and found pay dirt again, this time from the air, when Bennett found D.J. Coston underneath for a 49-yard touchdown pass. After a missed extra point, the Flashes kept building their lead up to 20-7 at the end of the 3rd quarter.



The Flashes used a turnover from their defense when Cameron Chavarria recovered a fumble after the Eagles botched the snap. The Flashes relied on their running game and Lee trucked an Eagles defender on his way to a 13-yard score. After a successful extra point, the Flashes added yet another score on the board up 27-7. The Eagles continued to battle and got back into the end zone courtesy of a 9-yard touchdown pass. With the extra point good, the Eagles cut into the deficit. But, the deficit was too much to overcome and the Flashes secured a 27-14 win and improve to 2-0 on the season.

Offensively, the Flashes generated 277 yards of total offense with 192 yards on the

ground. Leading the charge was Tywuan Lee with 18 carries for 188 yards and 2 touchdowns; D.J. Coston had 5 carries for 19 yards; Lyle Bennett went 3/11 for 85 yards, a touchdown, an interception, and a rushing touchdown; Coston had 2 catches for 60 yards and a touchdown; and Jason Sheffield had a reception for 15 yards.

Defensively, Sheffield and D.J. Blake led the charge with 6 tackles, Sheffield had a forced fumble and Blake with a fumble recovery; Cameron Chavarria had 5 tackles, a sack, and a fumble recovery; Dylan Coston had 5 tackles; and Huntley Moore and D.J. Coston both had 3 tackles with Coston forcing a fumble.

This Friday, the Flashes return home to host to the Stanton Blue Devils at 7 p.m. on Flashes Field. Friday night will also be Senior night, which will be held prior to the game at 6:30 p.m. Come out and support your hometown team. Go Flashes!



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