

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

FLASHES vs. Crescent City @ 7:00 p.m.

> **WARRIORS** vs. Yulee @ 7:00 p.m.

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED." - DEUTERONOMY 31:8

Callahan P/Z Board Approves **Community First Site Plan**



The Callahan Planning & Zoning Board met Monday, September 9. The first order of business on their agenda was to look over the site plan for a proposed Community First Credit Union. The 3,100sf building will be built on .98 acres right beside the new Tractor Supply now under construction

by The Journey gas station and food mart. There will be a main building along with three drive-thru bays for transactions and ATM services. Now that the site plan has been approved by the P/Z Board, it now will move through to the Callahan Town Council.

Sample Ballots in the Mail for General Election

Janet H. Adkins, Supervisor of Elections for Nassau County, announces Vote-by-Mail ballots and Sample Ballots for the 2024 General Election are in the process of being mailed to Nassau County Voters who have a Vote-by-Mail request on file. Our office sent UOCAVA Ballots (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) on September 17th. We will mail Sample Ballots to all Nassau County Voters on September 19th and we are scheduled to send Domestic Ballots to voters on September 26th. Ballots will be available for pick up in the Elections office on September 17th. The deadline to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for the General Election is October 24th. Pursuant to Florida Statute 101.62. voters now have to renew their Vote-by-Mail ballot request each election year. If you would like to vote by mail you can call our office or visit our website to request a ballot.

Vote-by-Mail ballots must be

received by the Elections Office no later than 7pm on election night. Voters can return their ballot one of four ways: 1. United States Postal Service: No

postage is required to return your ballot. 2. Supervisor of Elections Office: Open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- 3. Secure Ballot Intake Station: Located at every Early Voting Site from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., October 23rd through November 2, 2024.
- 4. Fernandina Beach Historic Courthouse: Open Monday - Friday, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Voters can track their ballot by signing up for real-time notifications via text, email, or voice. Download the new Vote Nassau FL mobile app and select "Track my Ballot."

For any questions regarding election-related concerns or election misinformation, please call our office at 904-491-7500 immediately so that we can take appropriate action.

Callahan Approves Rolled **Back Millage Rate**

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of September. The first two agenda items concerned a presentation from Melissa Fox representing the Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc., the town's grant writer. Ms. Fox gave a presentation concerning Fair Housing regulations. Fox went on to explain a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which the town will apply for. The maximum CDBG grant amount to apply for is \$650,000 and the grants are broken down into four categories: Housing Rehabilitation; Revitalization: Commercial Neighborhood Revitalization; and Economic Development. The Housing Rehabilitation includes replacement of owner occupied Low to Moderate Income (LMI) homes, which can sometimes eat up the funds quickly.

Commercial Revitalization The includes Streetscape, Sidewalks, Pedestrian Malls, Building Façade work, etc., to the downtown Commercial area.

The Neighborhood Revitalization includes Infrastructure items in residential LMI areas. Water or sewer line repair/replacement, water system improvements, sewer system improvements, paving, drainage, parks, community center, etc.

Economic Development to provide infrastructure on Town easement/ property to facilitate a new business or the extension of an existing business. Business must create long-term jobs and be included as the developer in the application.

Town Manager Mike Williams addressed the council concerning the CDBG Grant. "I'm recommending the town to apply for the \$650,000 grant. We (town) applied almost two years ago and weren't chosen," said Williams. "We will be applying for the neighborhood revitalization to complete the repairs on

our old manholes. The manholes will be lined and sealed properly to keep out storm water."

The council approved applying for the CDBG Grant.

The next order of business was from Mr. John Truesdale who requests to do a voluntary annexation of 3 parcels of property on the westside of US Highway 1 north of Callahan and south of the Ship Inn. "The parcels include 6.8 acres of property. My plan is to put a RV Park on the property," said Truesdale. "From what I understand there was an old motel on the property."

council The approved annexation.

The council reviewed their 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. The plan includes the expansion of the Waste Water, Water Plant expansion, Crawford Diamond #3 Well & water line, Water to the Fairgrounds, Water System upgrade, just to name a few.

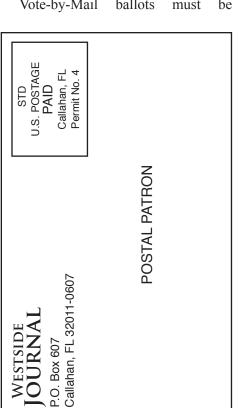
The council approved the 5-year plan.

A Public Hearing and First Reading was held on Fiscal Year Budget 2024-2025. The budget was set at \$5,627,331.00. The council approved the budget on First Reading. Final Reading will be held on Friday, September 30, 2024 at 7 p.m.

A few weeks ago, the council set the tentative millage at 1.8504 mills, which would include a price increase. "I know we set the tentative millage at 1.8504 however after working the numbers, I think using the rolled back rate of 1.7814 will work, if the council chooses so," said Town Manager Mike Williams.

The council approved Resolution 2024-R06 which concerned setting the tentative millage rate at the rolled back rate of 1.7814.

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





Nassau School Board Settles... Returning Obscene Books

Jack Knocke, NCDF

Thursday, September 12, the Nassau County School District agreed to settle their lawsuit and return at least 18 obscene books to the school library shelves by last Friday, September 13, with no restrictions, no age guardrails. Those 18 books were declared, by the Nassau County School District, in November 2023 to be obscene for minors in schools according to Florida Statutes 847.001 and 847.012.

The books that will be returned to school libraries are: 1. Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes 2. Almost Perfect by Brian Katcher 3. All American Boys by Jason Reynolds 4. Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out by Susan Kuklin 5. Crank by Ellen Hopkins 6. Deogratias: A Tale of Rwanda by Jean-Philippe Stassen 7. Drama by Raina Telgemeier 8. Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell 9. I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Ericka Sánchez 10. Identical

by Ellen Hopkins 11. If I Was Your Girl by Meredith Russo 12. Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews 13. Real Live Boyfriends by E. Lockhart 14. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison 15. The Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel 16. The Haters by Jesse Andrews 17. The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo 18. The Truth About Alice by Jennifer 19. Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher 20. This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki 21. Tricks by Ellen Hopkins 22. Unravel Me by Tahereh Mafi.

My initial speech to the school board has now changed. They have taken illegal and potentially criminal action in breach of Florida Laws. If you were planning to speak to any board member or the superintendent by email or at their next meeting, Thursday, September 26, you may want to adjust your message to them.

This is a dark day for Nassau County Schools. Our leadership has failed our children and parents.

———CLASS REUNION——— West Nassau High School Class of 1974

The WNHS Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th year reunion October 26 at 1881 Occasions at 6 p.m. in Hilliard. The event will be \$30 per person. Mail your check or money order to: Nancy Tew Lee, 274021 Murrhee Rd., Hilliard, 32046.





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Letters to the Editor

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

Yellowstone National Park

Dear Editor

After spending the first week of September in Yellowstone National Park with my two sons, Mike and Billy, I have to say the park is awesome! I hope anyone who wants to go there can do so one day. I believe it has the most diverse landscape of any place I have been. I think that most people would call it God's Country!

One thing I disagreed with was the \$35 a day entrance fee. I would like to see our government officials spend our tax money on our National Parks and infrastructure that our citizens use instead of sending it to foreign countries that wouldn't pee on us if we were on fire. Call our congress people and tell them to stop spending our money on illegals and foreign countries and use it in our country. Make life better for US Citizens who pay the taxes and live and work here and quit worrying about foreign countries!

Thank you, Mr. Teddy Roosevelt, for preserving this beautiful land!

Rocky Lynn

Presidential "Debate"

ear Editor,

After enduring Tuesday's alleged "debate" between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, I was left with feelings of absolute disgust and anger. The ABC "moderators," David Muir and Linsey Davis, displayed their obvious bias for all the world to see, turning this into a 3 on 1 ambush - in fact, President Trump had to debate Muir as much as he did the Vice President. President Trump was "fact-checked" by Mr. Muir five times, whereas Kamala Harris was not fact-checked a single time. This is despite the fact that Harris told, as reported by several news organizations, at least 25 lies during the course of the debate. Interestingly, several of Muir's "fact checks" were dead wrong (such as his reliance on the phony FBI statistics that serious crime in this country is decreasing -I'm not sure what planet he's been living on).

Of course, the left-leaning bias of the legacy media is nothing new. An excellent account of what the media has become is set forth by highly respected investigative journalist Sheryl Attkisson in her 2020 book, Slanted. Attkisson formerly worked

at CNN, PBS and CBS and is one of the few remaining journalists with any sense of journalistic standards or ethics. As Attkisson put it in Slanted, "When the facts don't fit their Narrative, the media abandons the facts, not the Narrative." In the appendix at the end of her book, she documents 131 news stories on Donald Trump between August 2016 and June 2020 that were demonstrated to be false or wrong. And yet, despite the deck being stacked against him, President Trump still did an excellent job at the debate of outlining many of his policy proposals to lead this country out of the total mess we find ourselves in.

This was supposed to be Kamala Harris' opportunity to defend her administration's policies and to set forth her policies going forward to solve our nation's problems (problems she has been a part of creating). However, at this she totally failed. Instead, she dodged questions (most of which were softballs) and not once did she outline or explain any policy proposal going forward. When the debate began, her opening question from Linsey Davis was whether we were now "better off or worse off than we were four years ago." A "yes" or "no" question. Harris never answered the question, choosing instead to talk only about herself, probably because the answer to the question is a resounding

The bottom line is that Kamala Harris is an "empty suit" with no substance to her whatsoever. The Democrat party and the legacy media are spending millions of dollars trying their best to sell the American people a bill of goods, and falsely spinning Harris as a political "moderate" instead of the leftist that she is, always has been, and will continue to be. I'm not buying it, and my fervent prayer is that the American people don't buy it either.

There is only one candidate in this race who has a track record of no inflation, energy independence, a booming economy, low unemployment, no wars, a secure border, and respect for our nation around the world (our adversaries may not have liked Donald Trump, but they certainly feared and respected him). Donald Trump is far from perfect – but then King David was not perfect either; and yet, despite his flaws, he is generally considered the greatest of the Israelite kings. To me, the choice of who should be our 47th President is a no brainer.

Peter Reed Corbin

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Emergency Food Bags Available in Callahan & Hilliard

Barnabas Center is pleased to announce a new initiative to support food-insecure residents of West Nassau County. In response to community needs, pre-packed emergency food bags have been delivered to the Callahan and Hilliard Town Halls and the Westside Journal in Callahan. Residents who are hungry and in need of assistance are encouraged to gwing by and night up a book to appear to gwing by and night up a book to appear to a paid to a pick up a book to a pick up a book to an another to a pick up a book to an another to a pick up a book to an another to a pick up a book to an another to a pick up a book to an another to a pick up a book to an another to a pick up a book to an another to a pick up a book to an another to an another to a pick up a book to an another to an another to a pick up a book to an another to an an another to an another to

to swing by and pick up a bag of nutritious groceries.

This effort is part of Barnabas Center's ongoing commitment to ensuring that no one in Nassau County goes hungry. "We understand that emergencies can happen at any time, and we want to make sure that our neighbors have access to nutritious food when they need it most," said Jamie Reynolds, President/CEO of Barnabas Center. "By placing these emergency food bags in locations where we can reach people in need, we can increase access to good nutrition."

The food bags are available for



pickup during regular Town Halls and Westside Journal hours, ensuring that assistance is just a quick stop away. Barnabas Center's partnership with local government officials is crucial to the success of this initiative, and we are grateful for their support in helping to distribute these vital resources.

For more information on this initiative or to learn how you can support Barnabas Center's efforts, please visit www.BarnabasNassau.org or contact Trish Thompson, Community Engagement Manager, at pthompson@barnabasnassau.org x 118 or by calling (904) 261-7000.

Nassau County Teen Court

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Next Session: Tuesday, September 24, 2024

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Yes, it's a sad day in Nassau County! The Nassau County School Board removed 36 books from circulation last year at the recommendation from "Citizens Defending Freedom," a conservative advocacy group. Two parents of students in the Nassau County School system filed a lawsuit against School Superintendent Kathy Burns and the school board. These parents felt their freedoms had been violated by removing these perverted books from school libraries. As this story hit national news it was reported by NBC News that the three dozen books were related to race and the LGBTQ community.

I have read parts of a few of these books, there is only one word to actually describe the content that I read, pornography! The details written in some of these books actually shocked me. I can't even come close to imaging my grandchildren having access to this smut in our public school system.

In order to settle the law suit, Nassau County School Superintendent Burns, at the advice of legal council, settled the law suit by agreeing to place the books back into the schools. Lauren Zimmerman, an attorney with the New York law firm Selendy Gay, which sued our school district on behalf of Parnell and Richardson and the two Nassau County residents stated, "This settlement, a watershed moment in the ongoing battle against book censorship in the United States, significantly restores access to important works that were unlawfully removed from shelves of Nassau County, Florida's public school libraries." You can probably imagine what I would like to say to Lauren Zimmerman!

I contacted four of the elected School Board members via email with the following message prior to the settlement, "It has been said that the NCSB is contemplating the return of books that are graphic and pornographic into our schools. It is common sense that these types of books do not belong in our schools! This disappoints me extremely! I have just one question for you. If NCSB carries through with returning these books into our schools, would you be willing to read just one page (page 483) of the book titled *Tricks* written by Ellen Hopkins out loud during a regularly scheduled School Board meeting? I humbly ask for a return message from you." I also sent a similar text to Kathy Burns.

I received two replies from NCSB members and a reply from Burns. Not the first one answered the question I posed to them. What chaps me the most is, how can a parent, writer, publishing company or court of law tell us that we have to display their books in our public schools. What gives them the right to demand? Where is the 'democracy' that the liberals are always crying about losing? I'll tell you where it is, it's long gone. We no longer have freedom. We will never have freedom again in America if true American patriots don't stand up, unite and take back our country from these raging lunatics destroying our country. Fifty years ago, the parents would have marched into these schools and removed the trash themselves and dared some New York lawyer to come down here.

It is now or never. If Harris is elected, America is finished. The only way then would be an all-out civil war, which none of us want to see happen. However, the Constitution plainly states 'we the people' have a right obligation to overthrow a government that suppresses the people.

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

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How is your Spiritual Health?

Pastor Walter Cooper, He Changed My Mind Ministries, Callahan



There are so many reasons that we may consider making lifestyle changes. Some of us are planning for upcoming weddings and we need to shed a few pounds. So, we cut back on some of our most desirable sweets. We wake up one morning and say you know. I want to start an exercise program and begin searching for a trainer to assist us in achieving our goal of being healthier. There are so many healthy foods to choose from today, such as specialty fruits, vegetables, and meats, that

assist us in making a different choice to eat healthier. Some may have gone to the extent of growing and raising their food for consumption. A lot of us today are very conscious about our health.

Matthew 22:37, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." A spiritually healthy person commits themselves to God regularly. Jesus teaches us that if we love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul, we shall have Spiritual Health. God is the foundation for spiritual health to love God and to love that neighbor as thy self. When we create times for studying the scriptures, our lives are shaped by regular times of prayer, where we open our hearts to the Lord and hear from him. Our faith is not only personal but is nurtured and encouraged by the faith of others. Receiving from the Lord God's love and the forgiveness for sin made possible through Christ's sacrifice is an important step to spiritual health. Then, spiritual growth continues when people attend to their relationship with Christ by cultivating space for the Holy Spirit to work in their lives and transform them into the character of Christ. While the Holy Spirit does the actual work of transformation, we are responsible for participating in the transformation process through various means, becoming part of a church, practicing spiritual disciplines and choosing to remain in a vital relationship with Christ.

As we mature in Christ, we understand that there are spiritual disciplines that will help transform our spiritual life by replacing old destructive habits with new character-building, life-giving ones. If our purpose is to be transformed into the likeness of Christ in this life. "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Romans 8:29

Spending time with Christ, is like going to the doctor. Christ also allows Christians to have grace, strength and beauty through embracing the spiritual disciplines. Spiritual health is often challenging and confusing without our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Most of our lives are often shaped by the trials and temptations that God allows us to go through. We don't understand what God is doing during those trials. Once the trials are over, we realize that it is for our good that God is shaping us and molding us in his image, and our weaknesses, we can find ourselves to be strong once we put our trust and faith in God.

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CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church, located across from Hilliard Town Hall, will be selling Barbecue Dinners Friday, September 20 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each.

The Youth of Hilliard First Assembly of God will be selling Barbeque Pork Sandwiches Sat., Sept. 21 at 11 a.m. at the traffic light in Hilliard. Monies raised will help the youth go to Rise Conference in Orlando. Sliced pork sandwiches, chips and a soda for \$10.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, will have the Daughters of God gathering from 12-2 p.m. Sat., Sept. 21 with guest speaker Scarlet Boyd. Women of all ages are welcome.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, will have a Meat Give-Away Sat., Sept. 21 at 8 a.m., first come, first served. If you are picking up for someone else, written proof of their name, address, phone number, people in the household, number of children under 18, must be provided.

Brothers and sisters, it's important that we practice healthy eating and exercise regularly to maintain the proper diet and maximize our bodies. It takes discipline to start an exercise program and fulfill our desires. No matter what the reason may be, there's no time like the right time to begin.

Jesus teaches in Matthew 22:37 that the beginning of our spiritual health is to fall in love with God, loving with everything that's in us. It begins in our heart by releasing everything to him and with your heart and mind listening to his steel voice as he speaks to us and directs us. We are on our way to Spiritual Health. Each day, as we make ourselves available to the Father we grow like an orange tree planted in Florida. He begins to change us from the inside out through the power of his holy spirit. We must remain disciplined. If we start with the Lord, we should also continue with him. And in weakness, we are strong in him through the good and bad times. God is faithful and true. Cultivate your spiritual health.

Grace and Peace for my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



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FSCJ Opens New Commercial Vehicle Driving Program at Nassau Center

Recently, Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) hosted a ribbon cutting to unveil the new Commercial Vehicle Driving program at the Nassau Center. This program allows Nassau County residents to obtain appropriate certification to fill the demand for highwage jobs in the commercial vehicle driving field. FSCJ was awarded a \$3.181.791.00 grant as part of the Florida Job Growth Grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), now known as the Florida Department of Commerce and Enterprise Florida, to support the expansion of its Commercial Vehicle Driving program. "We are thrilled to establish the Commercial Vehicle Driving program at FSCJ's

Nassau Center," said College President John Avendano, Ph.D. "This initiative will not only provide critical training for commercial vehicle drivers

in Nassau County but will also directly address the rapidly growing workforce needs in our region. By offering high-quality education and certification opportunities right here in Nassau County, we are meeting the urgent demand for trained drivers and ensuring our community is equipped with programs that offer our students opportunities to train for and step into these high-wage positions."

Coupled with the addition of industry-standard equipment and tools. the program will provide students the hands-on training necessary to prepare for a job in the transportation industry. The expansion in Nassau County allows FSCJ to train nearly 400 students annually and

> provides much needed financial assistance, support services and job placement assistance to them along the way.



Kim Hoffecker, Chaplain

The Sons of Confederate Veterans conducted a Chaplains Conference at their National Headquarters in Elm Springs, Tennessee. Forty-four men from eleven states gathered for the one day event September 14.

Representing Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 and the Florida Division were Adjutant Rick Roberts and Chaplain Kim Hoffecker along with past Commander-In-Chief Jason Boshers and Commander-In-Chief Walter D. "Donnie" Kennedy.





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New Beginnings and Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Feff Hicks Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Jeff and Pam Hicks, of Callahan, celebrated their 50th anniversary August 23. They were married August 23, 1974. They celebrated their special milestone with a memorable week-long cruise to Alaska with their loving family. They enjoyed breathtaking landscapes and quality time together. The cruise included stops at Icy Strait Point and Mendenhall Glacier, making for an unforgettable family experience.

retired Jeff from the US Postal Service following 30 years of service. Pam has been employed

Northwest Behavioral Health in Hilliard for 20 years.

They have two sons Brian and Christy of Callahan and Brad and Heather of Fernandina Beach. They also have 7 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.



Deana Hadden Celebrates 80th Birthday

Deana Hadden, of Callahan, celebrated her 80th birthday September 19. Happy 80th birthday to mama, aka Nanner Puddin, Deana Hadden. We love you so much and are blessed to have you. Love from all of your children and family!

Henry Bale Mumford

Levi and Amy Mumford, of Hilliard, are proud to announce the birth of their son Henry Bale Mumford. Henry was born July 1, 2024 at St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside in Jacksonville. He weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Maternal grandparents are Jeffrey and Angela Lee of Hilliard.

Paternal grandparents are Harry and Melissa Mumford of Bryceville.



Westside Journal Visits Yellowstone



Mr. Rocky Lynn, of Bryceville, was treated to a special trip with his sons, Mike and Billy, to Yellowstone National Park. The three had a wonderful time enjoying the beautiful sights and spending some special time together! Mr. Rocky, who is one of our favorite visitors to the Journal office, made sure to take along a copy of the Westside Journal with him!



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Aroma Waffle... More than just an Ice Cream Lounge!

Dawn S. West

I recently had the opportunity to visit the new Aroma Waffle located at the corner of 5th Avenue and

US 1 (beside Baptist Health) in Callahan. We've had a couple of visits from people that have been in the restaurant and wanted to make sure we tried it out for ourselves. Amine, the owner, was happy to visit with me as he prepared fresh items that were being ordered.



First of all, Aroma Waffle restaurant is completely different from any place you have been and it is much more than just an ice cream shop. However, they do have over 24 flavors (including my favorite of butter pecan) of ice cream and I didn't actually count all the



different toppings you could add to it. By toppings, I mean Oreos, peanuts, candy, etc. And of course, caramel,

> chocolate, strawberry, etc. So, yes it truly is an ice cream shop

> > but much more. You can order your ice cream in a cup or bubble or Belgian waffle cone. I had the bubble waffle cone, I'm not gonna story, it was amazing. They also have all varieties of milkshakes. The bubble waffle mix is

made fresh every day and tastes and smells delicious. And with the waffles you could also choose to have a breakfast sandwich (all day). Someone ordered a ham, egg and cheese while I was there, so we have a picture of that breakfast sandwich. Those sandwiches are made with salt waffles. I had never heard of that. They also offer crepes made to order, which are a delicacy.

If you're choosing breakfast, they also have homemade smoothies with fresh fruit, a coffee bar with espresso, Lattes, Caramel Macchiato, Cappuccino, etc.

Perhaps it's lunch. One resident dropped by our office to share her experience at Aroma and went back to



her car to bring in her salad. She had ordered a Greek salad. Not only did she enjoy it but it was so large she was taking to rest home with her. So, yes, they also have salads and sandwiches. While I was there, someone ordered a Gyro sandwich. After I took a picture, she quickly took a bite and said it was the best Gyro she had ever had.

The atmosphere in the restaurant is very peaceful and calming with soft



relaxing music playing. There are plenty of tables and chairs, however all items are also available for take-out. You can find them on Facebook. Orders can be called in at 904-628-0403 and the hours are Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.; and Sundays, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Aroma is located at 542113 US Highway 1 North in Callahan.

Make sure to give them a try...you won't be sorry!



Westside Journal Visits Branson, Missouri!





Recently, Sidney and Sylvia Beck of Callahan and friends John and Margaret of Jacksonville enjoyed a week-long trip to Branson, Missouri to see The Presleys Country Jubilee group. While there, they also visited Sight & Sound Theatre where they saw the Queen Ester production. We're happy they remembered to take along a copy of the Westside Journal on their unique trip!



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FRANKLIN MINI STORAGE of Hilliard is holding

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10 a.m. at CR 108 East, in Hilliard, FL. Units HA8,

HB44, and HH140 contain household items and/or

tools and will be auctioned. For any questions about

the auction please contact Carrol Franklin at 904-

FRANKLIN MINI STORAGE of Callahan is holding

a PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday October 5, 2024 at

11 a.m. at 541468 US HWY 1 North, Callahan, FL

32011. Units CA59, CC145, CB112, CE254, and

CE278 contain household items and/or tools and will

be auctioned. For any questions about the auction

please contact Carrol Franklin at 904-945-1707.

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VFW YARD SALE, this Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rain or shine! Located across from the Hilliard Airpark. \$5 bag day! New donations! Help support your Veterans.

O.E.S. ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE & YARD SALE! Next Saturday, September 28, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Callahan Masonic Lodge, behind Callahan Town Hall. Homemade Jams, Jellies, Apple Butter, boiled peanuts, jewelry, clothing, crafts & hot dog trio lunch!

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A Debate? No, Poor Excuses for Telling Tall Tales

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

Like many of you, we also watched what could only be described as an oldfashioned, childhood, bullying. At one point, it looked like the playground scenes where I went to elementary school. Two people, holding down a fourth, only so the third person could sneak up behind him and pull down his pants. Instead of a debate, we watched three people spend more time lying and contradicting one person, who was as honest as the day is long with his responses, like them or not. At another point, it was like he was debating the alleged "neutral" moderators, as his identified opponent directed the attacks that they would use.

From the very first question, the unelected Democratic nominee failed to provide any answers, pertaining to the questions being asked. Only going so far as to tell stories about herself, that were totally irrelevant to the questions and to turn the dialogue back to the old, wornout, time proven wrong allegations that have been made and already disproved of her opponent.

One person is still as clear and straight forward with their ideals and policies as ever. The other is still as transparent as a brick wall about their policies and values. The Socialist Democrat, Bernie Sanders, was very candid and honest with his assessment of the unelected Democratic nominee. To paraphrase; she has not changed her values and objectives at all.

She has just learned that she must adjust her dialogue about them so as to seem like she is more in line with the electorate. Or, in other words, she will say and do whatever it takes to get elected and then return to her time proven "Values."

So, to use a term that has been worn out; "It is time to turn the page!" But time will do that all by itself. We don't need another Marxist-Socialist to re-write our history, just so we can "Turn the Page." We don't need another person spreading propaganda, to "Turn the Page" on a new Novel. (Remember, novels are fiction!) And, we certainly don't need another politician that tells us only what we want to hear, without action to back it up, so we can continue down the "Old Road" to despair. Think about it again, as during the entire time-frame, everything this person described as 'policy' was to give-away, give-away and give-away more. The truly elected Republican nominee outlined his policies as we will get, get and get some more, for the people.

Finally, a tried-and-true Democratic propagandist has now encouraged the Marxist-Socialist to not do any more interviews, debates and or discussions where questions are involved. His reasoning? Basically, he has informed her that anything she says can, and will, be used against her in the election. Get ready for it! The basement philosophy of running for office has returned!

> Large Shrimp Dinner with 2 Sides & Hushpuppies

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, September 9

Michael Ryan Pettis, 35, Callahan: Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Richard David Simmons, 41, Bryceville: Tamper with Witness; Trespassing Structure or Conveyance; Theft over \$750 under \$5,000; Rob Sudden Snatch with Weapon; Grand Theft more than \$20K less than \$100K

Wednesday, September 11

Hunter Michael Hersey, 20, Callahan: Violation of Probation Community Control Felony

Brian Roger Housend, 42, Hilliard: Kidnap Another Person; Stalking/Aggravated; Written Threats to Kill

Saturday, September 14

Michael David Alexander, 39, Callahan: Loitering and Prowling; Tag Not Assigned on Vehicle; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Driving While License Suspended or Revoked Revocation Equivalent Status 3rd Subsequent Violation; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

Lasean Jerick Charles, 30, Hilliard: Battery on Officer, Firefighter or EMT, etc.; Resisting Officer with Violence

Travis Russell Hill, 44, Bryceville: Violation of Probation Community Control

Felony Justin Ben Laurendine, 40, Hilliard: Writ of Attachment Child Support

Robert Dale Mencner, 52, Hilliard: Failure to Register Motor Vehicle; Possession of

Schedule 1-5 Substance (x 2); Failure to Appear (x 2)

Sunday, September 15

Dylan Troy Ardolino, 19, Callahan: Affray

Phillip Edward Word, Jr., 18, Callahan: Resist without Violence; Affray



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RICHARD LEO EGAN



Richard Leo Egan, 88, of Callahan, took his final breaths on this earth and took his first in the presence of Jesus in Heaven, Friday, September

6, 2024. He was born August 26, 1936, to John and Reita Egan, of Syracuse, New York. Richard was a loving husband, avid Yankees fan, and jokester. He served proudly in the United States Navy. After which he was an accomplished route salesman and retired from Frito-Lay. In his later years, he volunteered at food pantries and at Barnabas Center in Fernandina Beach. He loved his Small Group at Callahan First Baptist Church.

Richard is survived by his wife, Shirley Boyette Egan; his sons Richard Leo (Melissa) Egan, Jr. of Smithfield, VA and Jon Patrick (Allison) Egan of Old Town, FL; and his brother Mike (Mary) Egan.

Richard is preceded in death by his wife, Sharon Egan; sister Jackie (John) Eaton; and two sons Robert Egan and David Egan.

The family will receive friends Monday, September 23 from 6-7 p.m. at Callahan First Baptist Church. A memorial service will be held Tuesday, September 24 at 11 a.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery with military honors.

Bruce Wayne Lamar



Bruce Wayne Lamar, 71, of Callahan, passed away Monday, September 9, 2024 in Jacksonville. Bruce was born June 3, 1953, in Sapulpa,

Oklahoma to William Claude Lamar, Jr. and Juanita Tuttle

Lamar. He grew up on a 160-acre farm in Mounds, Oklahoma, where his paternal grandparents owned a farm as well. In school, Bruce excelled in academics and in the Beggs High School Future Farmers of America chapter. He won numerous

OBITUARIES

awards in horticulture, livestock and public speaking and held offices at both the local and state levels.

After he graduated from Beggs High School in 1971, he proudly served his country for 6 years in the United States Army. Later, he attended college at Oklahoma State University and Northeast Oklahoma A & M and later received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary.

When he was 18 years old, Bruce made the greatest decision of his life while attending Falls Creek Baptist Youth Camp in Oklahoma. He decided to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and later felt called to serve in Christian ministry. For over 20 years, Bruce served as a youth director, music minister, associate pastor, and pastor in churches in Oklahoma and Florida. In his later years, he worked in various other fields, primarily in fencing and automatic gate operations, but his greatest passion remained serving Jesus Christ in the local church. He continued to teach Bible Fellowship classes at Callahan First Baptist Church until his passing. Bruce was preceded in death by his parents.

The family would like to extend gratitude to all those who have expressed their condolences and loved our family so well through this difficult time.

He is survived by his wife of almost 44 years, Jean Brophy Lamar; his four children Nathan Wayne Lamar; Kharmon Lamar (James) Wofford, Aimee Lamar (Shaun) Roddenberry and Jared Michael (Whitney) Lamar; 13 grandchildren Nathan, Jr., Noah, Jonah and Eli Lamar, Preston and Kerstyn Ginnetto, Tristen, Wyatt and Layton Roddenberry, Everly, Amelia, Josiah and Olivia Lamar; three great-grandchildren; and sister Liane Downing.

The family received friends Monday, September 16 at Callahan First Baptist Church. The funeral service was held Tuesday, September 17 also at the church. Burial followed in Jones Cemetery in Callahan.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate any donations in memory of Bruce to be made to Callahan First Baptist Church, marked "Faith Commitment" for missions.

Condolences may be expressed at www. srfhcallahan.com.

Arrangements by Shepard Roberson-Callahan Chapel, 717365 Brandies Avenue,

"For the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us." Romans 8:18

LAVERN H. MEEKS



Douglas Lavern Higginbotham Meeks, of Callahan, passed away Thursday, September 12, 2024, at her home of more than

61 years. She was born March 7, 1931 in Axson, Georgia, to the late Harvey Douglas and Maebel Flanders Douglas. Laverne moved from Cogdell, GA to Callahan in 1941. She was the 5th of seven children. Her family bought firewood from Mr. Melvin Higginbotham, where she met her love, Aubrey, in 1947. She asked her mama if she could invite him to her 16th birthday party...and the rest is history. She and Aubrey married on December 3, 1948. They had two sons, Maurice and David. Aubrey passed away unexpectedly in 1980. Laverne met J.E. Meeks while working in O'Steen's Callahan Pharmacy and they married in 1985. J.E. passed away in 1996. You could find Mrs. Laverne working at various local businesses including, Orange

Restaurant, Sportsman Restaurant, Long's Sundries, White's Auto, Florida Sun Printing, and the Nassau County Record. She was also a faithful volunteer for many years at the Callahan Community Dinner on Wednesday nights. She loved to travel and could be ready to go at a moment's notice.

In addition to her parents; and both husbands; she was preceded in death by her son Maurice Higginbotham; her great-granddaughter Stephanie Higginbotham; and her siblings Johnny, Cleo, Leo, Viola, Jean Iris and Harvey, Jr.

She is survived by her son and his wife David and Brenda Higginbotham of Callahan; daughter-in-law Higginbotham of Callahan; grandchildren Heather (Rich), Joshua (Christina), Caleb and Justin (Danae); her great-grandchildren Alexis, Brandon, Kinsley, Addison, Emma Kate and Sadie Lynn; and a multitude of nieces, nephews and friends who were like family.

The family received friends Monday, September 16, prior to the funeral service at Callahan Methodist Church with Pastor Bodie Riddle and Dr. Lynn Hyatt officiating. Burial followed in Jones Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at www. srfhcallahan.com.

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

LUEMMA L. PAXTON



Mrs. Luemma Leftwich Paxton, 97, of Callahan, passed away Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at her home. She was born August 23, 1927 to the

late Roy and Frances Hughes Leftwich. She was a former past president of the Friends of Callahan Library and a member of the Callahan Methodist Church. She enjoyed doing cross stitch and other hobbies. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in



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death by her husband William Paul Paxton; and a son Charles Edward Paxton.

She is survived by her children Linwood (Beverly) Paxton of Callahan, Ronald (Julie) Paxton and Phyllis (Tim) Paxton; five grandchildren; and five greatgrandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 28 at 2 p.m. at Callahan Methodist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at www. srfhcallahan.com.

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

JOHN W. QUINN



John "Jack" W. Quinn, 92, passed away peacefully August 27, 2024 at his home, while under the care of his family and Community Hospice. He was

known as Jack to his eight siblings, other family and friends. Jack was born and raised in Ottumwa, Iowa.

He joined the United States Army in 1954. During his 27 years, Jack served in Newfoundland, Korea, Okinawa, and Germany along with many other stateside assignments. At full retirement, Jack moved to Fernandina Beach, where he was an avid golfer, volunteer with the Nassau County Sheriff's Department, and Baptist Nassau Hospital Auxiliary. Jack was a member of the American Legion and the VFW and was also active in St. Michael Catholic Church men's club, Knights of Columbus. Jack loved to travel, music and dancing with Sara. He was a big man in stature, who to some, first appeared to be "gruff," but once you got to know him was just a big "teddy bear." Jack gave the best hugs, too. He was preceded in death by his sons Paul D. Quinn and Patrick D. Quinn.

Jack left behind his loving and devoted wife, Sara Jane McDonald Quinn; a loving

OBITUARIES

father to his seven children Jeanne Bailey, Julie Crews, John M. Quinn, Catherine Faith and Carol Quinn; grandfather of nine Sara Jordan, Jason Bailey, John Crews, Jessie Crews, Colin Quinn, Hannah Quinn, Jacob Faith, Claire Faith and Sean Davis; and great-grandfather to Grace and Scarlett Jordan.

A Mass for Jack will be held Thursday, September 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, 201 North 4th Street, Fernandina Beach. A reception will follow immediately at Church Hall.

Inurnment will be held Friday, September 27 at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m.

Arrangements under the direction of Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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

SANDRA GWENDOLYN WILSON



Sandra Gwendolyn Wilson, 86, of Callahan, peacefully passed away September 9, 2024, into the arms of Jesus, surrounded by her family,

following a long illness. Sandra was born September 7, 1938 to George G. McKenney and Mary Irene McKenney in Chattanooga, TN.

She was married to the love of her life, George M. Wilson, for 61 years. After raising children, she decided to return to school and earn her high school diploma. She was a woman who, once she set her mind to a task, completed it. Before acquiring that diploma, she had to learn to read. Completing all this in just four years, and she graduated Salutatorian of her class.

Additionally, she loved singing, took

voice lessons and sang solos for her church in earlier years. She was an inspiring example for anyone who lacked selfesteem. Making friends came easy to her, but of all her attributes, she loved her Lord Jesus the most. Sandra is predeceased by her parents; and grandson Justin Wilson (who they helped raise).

She leaves behind her husband, George; children Talesa (Glenn) Lloyd, Carl (Ruth) Dennis, Mark (Tannya) Wilson and Kim Hawkins (Kenneth Lloyd); grandchildren Christian, Cass, Aaron (Amy), Leah (Isaac), Nathan (Nicole), Mark, Jr. (Sandra), Stephen, Lilly and Jimmy; and 14 greatgrandchildren.

The family received friends September 12 at Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Jacksonville. The funeral service was held Friday, September 13 at The Anchor Church of God in Callahan. Interment followed at Green Pine Cemetery, Yulee.

Arrangements by Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Jacksonville.

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

MILBRIA "BILLIE" WIMBERLY



Milbria "Billie" Lois Wimberly (nee Harris), 89, of Jacksonville, went home to be with her Savior September 11,

She was born October 17, 1934 to William Russel Harris and Flossie Bell Harris (nee Williams) in Jacksonville. Billie was raised with her six other siblings in Hedges and later moved to Jacksonville after falling in love and marrying her husband of 48 years, Richard C. Wimberly, in November of 1953. She became a devoted mother in October of 1959 with

the birth of her favorite son, Buddy. They attended Pines Baptist Church where she led her husband to salvation, and they later founded The Haven of Rest Baptist Church in their living room with four other adults and two children in 1971. In 1976, they moved to Lannie Road and became Lannie Road Baptist Church where Billie faithfully served her whole life as the Pastor's wife, church mother, Sunday school teacher, treasurer, singer and kitchen Queen. She was one of the four original founding members of the Gospel Sounds music group which has performed far and near and has been hosting a local Gospel sing every month for over 53 years. Billie was a devoted wife and 'honey' to her beloved husband and never remarried after his passing 22 years ago.

She was a cherished 'Mama' to her church family whom she loved spending time in fellowship with. Billie was a precious 'Lil Granny' to her grands, greatgrands, and great-great-grands whom she adored. She loved her family, her church, singing, fishing, travel, coffee and most importantly, she loved the Lord. In fact, the only thing she really hated was wearing shoes.

Billie leaves behind her son, Buddy (Ann) Wimberly; grandchildren Sharon (Brad) Underhill and Rick (Adrienne) Wimberly; sister Suzi Marlow; greatgrandchildren Ricky (Miranda) Underhill, Brianna Wimberly, Christian Underhill, Georgia Wimberly and Abbi Wimberly; great-great-grandchildren Ryker and Raiden Underhill.

A visitation and homegoing celebration remembering Billie was held Saturday, September 14 at Lannie Road Baptist Church, Jacksonville with Pastor Buddy Wimberly officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Arrangements under the direction of Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US-1, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

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





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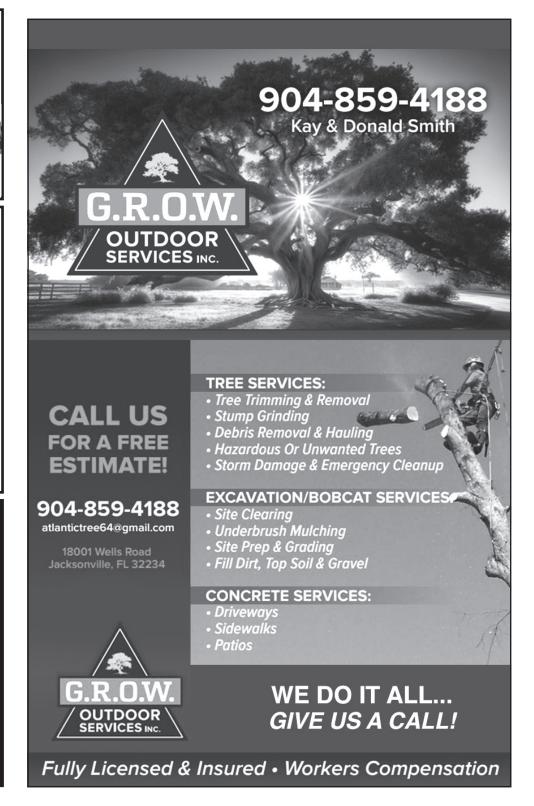


Several plans and payment options are available to fit every need. If you would like to discuss arrangements or have any questions, we encourage you to contact us.

Dana Forbes, Preneed Agent/Office Manager

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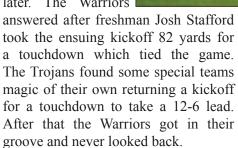
Please visit our webside for valuable resources and information: www.warrenfuneralservices.com



Warriors Trounce Trojans

Coach Waylon Cox

The West Nassau **High School Warriors** traveled to Hamilton County last Friday night and took on the Trojans. The Warriors came home victorious with a 47-12 win. The Trojans started fast after they got a stop on fourth down and took the lead 6-0 a few plays later. The Warriors



Skyler Freeman found the endzone twice in the first half. Mo Green also added a touchdown in the first half after a Levi Bowler interception. This brought the score to 27-12 at halftime.

The Warriors got a defensive stop to open the second half and tacked on another touchdown after Green scored his second of the game. Pryce Arnold connected with Colby Gay on the next offensive drive to bring the score to



touchdown to make the score 47-12.

The Warriors were led on the ground by Skyler Freeman who had 17 carries for 126 yards and 2 touchdowns; Mo Green had 9 carries for 113 yards and 2 touchdowns; Gaven Carter added 9 carries for 67 yards and a touchdown; Pryce Arnold was 5 of 8 passing for 52 yards and 1 touchdown; Colby Gay had 2 receptions for 23 yards and a touchdown; Avery Griffin, Grady Stevens and Kevin Carter all added a reception.

The Warrior's defense was led by Garrett Rica who had 12 tackles with 5 for a loss and a sack; Nash Batrous had 9 tackles and a forced fumble; Hunter Gentry had 8 tackles and Fisher Johnson

had 7 tackles for the game. Nate Batrous and Kayden Thompson also added a sack each. While Bryceton Hodges and Bryce Mangum added fumble recoveries.

The Warriors return to action at home this Friday night against their county rival the Yulee Hornets with a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Go Warriors!

Flashes Skid Continues

Coach Matthew Yancey

The Hilliard Flashes moved to 0-4 on the season after suffering a 41-12 defeat from the Buccaneers. Branford Branford used a ground and pound rushing attack to rush for 272 yards and 6 touchdowns, led by quarterback Maurice Vogt.

After the Bucs opened up the scoring in the first quarter, Hilliard answered right back with a 48yard screen pass from Cale Libby to Ethan Garland. Branford added another touchdown in the first half but a late stop by the Flashes defense kept the score at halftime 14-6.

The third quarter saw the game slip away from the Flashes as Branford added three more touchdowns to put the game out of reach. The Flashes didn't give up as Cale Libby found Ethan Garland for a 67-yard touchdown pass that moved the score to 28-12. The Flashes were unable to get anything going after that.



Defensively, the Flashes were led by defensive end Collin Cassidy who totaled 11 tackles. Jake Crews, Hunter Brockett and Jeffrey Smith all finished with 8 tackles. DJ Alderman was the team's leading rusher with 72 yards on 9 carries. The youth movement continued for the Flashes as Tucker Williams and Shane Harvey both got their first start on defense. Harvey and fellow Freshman Kolt King both saw time on offense and defense.

The Flashes return to action this Friday as they host the Raiders of Crescent City with a 7 p.m. kickoff!

Go Flashes!



Inky

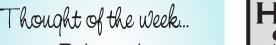
Blue Fire Theatre will present "Love, Loss, and What I Wore," written by the talented Nora and Delia

Ephron. This poignant production intertwines humor and emotion, exploring the stories of women through their most cherished clothing, shoes and

accessories. Experience the powerful memories that shape our lives, reflecting on relationships with mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and lovers.

The production will be held Friday, October 4 & Saturday, October 5, at the Yulee Lions Club. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Pinky Promise Foundation, that provides free services to women undergoing cancer treatments. For more details and to purchase tickets, visit: www. BlueFireTheatre.org. Don't miss this beautiful celebration of life, love, and the threads that connect us all!





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