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to God for  
Our Nation!

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

WARRIORS

@ Lake Weir

@ 7:30 p.m.



FLASHES

@ Paxon

@ 6:30 p.m.



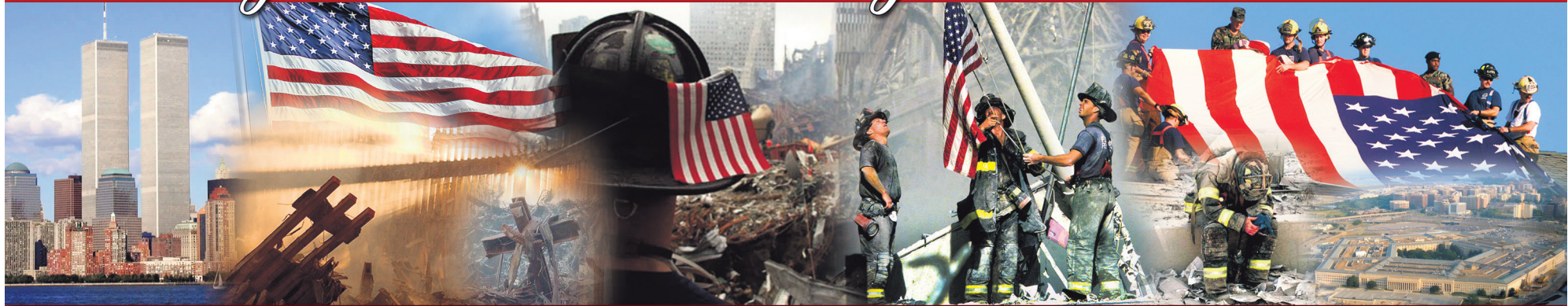
VOLUME XXI ISSUE 5

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

"CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU. BE ALERT AND OF SOBER MIND. YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR." - 1 PETER 5:7-8

## May We Never Forget... 9-11-2001



### Brandy Branch Baptist Church Celebrates Groundbreaking



Brandy Branch Baptist Church was recently pleased to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for their new 6,000 sf sanctuary. The church staff and members have gone through the long process of engineering and permits and are ready to proceed with the construction of their long-awaited new sanctuary. The groundbreaking makes it real.

The following is a little history about Brandy Branch Church. It is believed that those in the community of Brandy Branch, were coming together for worship in the mid-1800s, but nothing exists to verify these memories. It is believed that Kinsey Chambers was the earliest known preacher who began a ministry in the Brandy Branch area around 1850. The original place of worship was a small log structure

that Henry Pringle and his wife gave the first acre of land for the church and cemetery.

Brandy Branch became a part of the St. Marys River Association, which was organized in 1879. Twenty-three years later, it became the Jacksonville Baptist

Association. In 1913, two more acres, adjoining the original acre, was given donated to the church for use by Mr. and Mrs. John Lane. In 1915, the log structure burned and was replaced by a wood frame building. A dedication service was held February 14, 1915. The building was used for the next 57 years until it too was destroyed by fire



in November 1972.

Once again, most records and history of the church were destroyed.

Construction on a new building had begun in 1972 but not far enough along to hold services. The church members met outside for a while until the building was dried in. The members met in the building with no windows and blocks with 2'x6's for seating. It was finally completed in 1973. This building was used until a new sanctuary was completed in 2001. The building had to later be torn down in 2018, due to structural problems.

Since that time, the church members set up a building fund for a new sanctuary and often have held

fundraisers to help defray the costs. The celebration of a groundbreaking ceremony on August 25 was an answer to prayer of God's faithfulness. The staff and church members are looking forward to dedicating the new sanctuary and building to the Glory of God in the near future!

Brandy Branch Baptist Church offers Sunday Bible Study at 9 a.m. followed by Worship Service at 10 a.m. and evening Worship at 6 p.m. On Wednesdays there is Kid's Club, Youth Service and Bible Study at 7 p.m. The church pastor is Brother Deryle Adkinson and the address is 1906 Brandy Branch Church Place in Bryceville, 904-266-4314.



Digital Rendering of New Sanctuary

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# DNC Convention Much Like the Weather Forecast

Douglas C. Pearson, Sr.

Like many of you, we have been inundated with rain, standing water and are having difficulty just walking around the yard. Much like the DNC Convention, the weather forecasters have told us what we wanted to hear and then the atmospherics turn it around and just “rained on our picnic.” Heck, I had to install pontoons on my lawnmower, just to be able to get around and select those spots where I could actually cut the grass.

But the contrast in Chicago was worse than that. Every one of those, who were integral in getting Joe Biden to bow out of the race, turned right back around and had nothing but praise for his service and accomplishments. If he was so bad, why is he still president and what is there to praise? Every one of them advocated that Kamala (Giggles) Harris be replaced on the ticket a few months ago, and then espoused that she was the best candidate to replace Joe on the Ticket. If she was so bad as a VP what, miraculously, made her uniquely qualified to be President? Before it was all over, the impression was that Donald Trump was actually in the White House since January, 2021, and all the problems we are experiencing today are his fault and not the responsibility of the current administration.

But the biggest misrepresentation of all was the “DNC Platform”, released just prior to the convention start, which had no mention of the current upheaval being experienced. In fact, it was laced throughout with references to Joe Biden

pursuing his ‘second-term’ in office and no mention of a replacement. Adding to all that, they have put forth “The Giggler” as the most middle-of-the-road candidate ever on the ticket since Bill Clinton tried to persuade Newt Gingrich to lift the debt limit, behind the public’s back, ergo, the Balance Budget Amendment and “The Contract with America.”

Now Kamala has adopted many of Donald Trump’s positions, as she tries to “White Wash” her Marxist objectives. As a result, I’ve even gone so far as to make it a point of wearing Brown Shoes, the last few weeks, just to avoid having to always clean them when stepping in a pile of manure. All to no avail, as there has been so much white wash, I’ve had to revert back to my tennis shoes.

The avoided conversation from the DNC, and Ms. Harris, is the burning question, “Are you better off now than you were in 2020?” My answer comes back NO, every time! Our taxes, on our fixed retirement incomes, has gone up 40% (\$3,500 per year) in the last three years. Our auto insurance (on the same vehicles I owned in 2020) has gone up 110% (\$2,000 per year). Our homeowners insurance has increased nearly 80% (and many will say that we’ve been fortunate that it only went up that much). Then there is the obvious cost increases of just trying to meet our daily needs. Groceries, medications, transportation, etc... that have been estimated to cost the average, median income household approximately

# 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.

## Evil is Lurking

Dear Roger,

I hope you are a fan of Mark Levin. He is a brilliant man who puts his great career on the line as he labels the Democratic Party as “Evil.” I also hope you are glad to see Robert Kennedy, Jr. to support Donald Trump. I am a registered Democrat, who always votes for a Republican at the top, where it counts.

Our country is being weighed in God’s balance and is falling short. Judgement is coming, just as sure as always, from God. All the way to Revelation, the Harris ticket is a combination of evil standards that will destroy what is left of our “...One Nation Under God” and replace it with some form of godless Marxism.

True Americans may yet fight another Civil War before the final judgement of God at the end of time. We, as Christians, know, that judgement is coming!

Darin Hawkins

## Hamas Leader

Dear Editor,

No man knows who the Antichrist is but I will say the Hamas leader whose name is Sinwar, that is the most likely name of any evil leader, I believe is somehow connected. Even when trying to write this, the font on my phone will not cooperate and the delete button kept automatically deleting my sentences one letter at a time-Very spooky- but I kept going because it let me know I’m on the right path.

He is quoted as saying, “We won’t discuss recognizing Israel, only wiping it out.” Yahya Sinwar says ‘no one in the universe can disarm us,’ likens belief that terror group will relinquish weapons to ‘Satan dreaming of heaven.’ The irony that he would liken his enemy to Satan by wiping out an entire country shows his ignorance and how dangerous he is. We need more people to know about this dangerous man, before it’s too late.

Still a little freaked out,  
Jim Halpert

\$12,000 more per year. I recommend that you, too, look back at your expenses over the past four years. I believe you’ll find the same thing, or similar, that will help you answer the question.

So, the choice is now more clear than it has ever been. To paraphrase Rush Limbaugh, she is a French Fry (or two)

short of a Happy Meal. In reflection, I now truly believe that Mother Nature is a Democrat! She’ll insinuate a rosy picture and then, when the table cloth is spread and the food is all out at the picnic, disaster will destroy your “Hope and Joy.”

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# NCCOA-Baptist Health to Host 2024 Senior Expo & Health Fair

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Please join Nassau County Council on Aging (NCCOA) and Baptist Health for the 10th Annual Senior Expo & Health Fair – FREE to the general public. More than 60 exhibitors will be on site providing useful information and resources. There will be giveaways galore, free medical equipment and supplies, and free health screenings provided by Baptist Health. Exhibitors will include local, state and federal agencies, including Social Security Administration, Veterans Services, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid and Seniors vs Crime, as well as local businesses geared toward seniors. One Blood community blood drive, Seniors on a Mission technology bus, NCCOA class demos, Beyond Horizons food truck and much more! For more information, contact NCCOA at 904-261-0701 or visit [www.nassaucountycoa.org](http://www.nassaucountycoa.org).

## Genealogy Tidbits

Claude Arpen

What does “cousin once removed” mean? First, a cousin is someone with whom you share a common ancestor. My first cousin and I share the same grandparents. They are our common ancestors. My second cousin and I share the same great-grandparents, our common ancestors are a generation further back. The word “removed” means that the cousins come from different generations. “Once removed” means that they are one generation apart, “twice removed” means that they are two generations apart, and so on.

Here’s an example: My first cousin’s child is my first cousin once removed. My first cousin’s grandchild is my first cousin twice removed.

However, my child and my first cousin’s child are second cousins. They are of the same generation hence they are not “removed,” but their common ancestors are their great-grandparents which is why they are second cousins. You can Google: “relationship chart” which will help you determine who is who in your family tree.

To learn more, come join us at the West Nassau Genealogical Society meetings the second Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Callahan Lions Club, located on US 1 north of the fairgrounds. Visitors are always welcome!

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

The West Nassau Genealogical Society meets the second Monday of each month at the Callahan Lions Club at 10:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome!

If you or a loved one have been a victim of Domestic Violence, FREE Domestic Violence Support Group. For time, date and location, call for more details: (904) 548-7312.

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Hilliard Library. PAL provides hope through education and support to parents of addicted loved ones. Visit: [www.palgroup.org](http://www.palgroup.org) to learn more. Free educational support group for parents and families.

## JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

What would America become if Kamala wins in November? The simple truth is America will be transformed completely. First, you have to realize that the Democratic elites do not love America, they actually despise it. Harris/Walz, along with their colleagues, are already formulating a plan that will wipe the America we have known and loved completely off the map.

A Democrat Senator from Rhode Island, Sheldon Whitehouse, spilled the beans to a panel hosted by Brennan Center for Justice (a left-wing activist group). He told the panel that if Democrats control Congress and the White House they are “virtually certain” to pass unprecedented reform. He stated that they are ready to abolish the Senate filibuster which would give the Democrats the ability to pass a massive bill that’s a grab bag of virtually every item on the Left’s wish list.

Whitehouse stated that the Bill would certainly include permanent reproductive rights, permanent restored voting rights and Supreme Court reform. The Supreme Court reform would establish 18-year term limits for justices and ethics reform. Passing that bill would force Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito to retire next year, which in turn, would allow Kamala to appoint two replacements which will swing the court to a liberal majority. A Democrat-controlled Supreme Court would shred the Constitution and our rule of law will be gone. With a packed Supreme Court and a Democrat controlled Congress, the next steps will include granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens, adding Democrat Senators from newly formed states of Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. With all of that, the Democratic Party will remain in power until the return of our Lord and Savior, which I believe will be soon. Kamala Harris is determined to lead an all-out assault to eliminate our Constitution!

Speaking of Kamala and our Lord and Savior, Kamala Harris managed to send a video greeting to a Christian conference quoting scripture out of context about Jesus Christ, and then didn’t even bother to mention His name. Kamala laid out her vision, which involves using the power of the federal government to facilitate home ownership and ensure “affordable” health care and child care, and end childhood poverty (better known as Communism). “As the Gospel of Luke tells us, faith has the power to ‘shine a light on those living in darkness’ and to ‘guide our feet in the path of peace,’” she said. Luke 1:79, does not say faith has the power to shine a light on those living in darkness and lead them into peace. Only Jesus Christ does. The context in Luke 1, Zechariah prophesying to his son John the Baptist about his future of spreading the gospel. Zechariah said, “because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

So, Harris is preaching the gospel of salvation through government, trying to use a Bible passage about Jesus Christ to do it. That certainly feels sacrilegious. Portions of this context were derived from the Western Journal and 24/7 Politics.

The message is loud and clear, this is not the time to let your dislike for a man, that loves “OUR” America, to blind you of the evil that lurks within the Democrat Party. I’ve said many times, the current Democrat Party is NOT the Democrat Party that your grandparents supported. The situation we are in right now boils down to good vs. evil. Nothing in the Democrat platform is beneficial for America! American patriots have to flood the polls in November. We need a vote total that cannot be overcome by fraud. “We The People” are at war with Communists. Just as history points out, they will take America from within and not with an invasion.

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



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# Are You Scared of Death?

Pastor Marty Paparo, Friendship Alliance Church, Callahan



Yeah, you read that right, I said, “Are you scared of death,” not “Are you scared TO death?” I did some research. There are three people in the Bible who never died: 1) Enoch: Genesis 5:24 says, “*Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*” (NIV) 2) Elijah: 2 Kings 2:11 says, “*And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*” (ESV) Melchizedek: Hebrews 7:3 says, “*He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.*” (ESV)

So outside of these three guys and the fact that Jesus came back from the dead; 10 out of 10 doctors agree: everyone dies. We can’t avoid it. So, if we know we are all going to die (or Jesus will return first), then we should probably put some thought into where we will spend eternity. When I compare our 80-120 years here on earth, to endless time in eternity, there’s no comparison. If all of eternity were represented by the surface area of Nassau County, our 100 years wouldn’t be a speck of dust. So, eternity is an important thing to think about.

The good news is that we don’t have to be afraid of death or what lies on the other side. Jesus Christ has defeated death: “*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling.*” 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (ESV)

What makes a follower of Christ not afraid of death? We know that Jesus has for us eternal life not eternal death. The only thing we need is a personal relationship with Jesus. The question we must ask ourselves is “Do I have a relationship with Jesus?” The way we know is the same as any other relationship. Have we met Jesus (salvation experience)? Do we talk to Him (prayer)? Do we listen to Him (read His word, the Bible)? We can’t pretend we are in a right relationship with Jesus if we don’t interact with Him. The relationship on this side of death is what confirms our relationship with Him on the other side of death. When you know Jesus, there is nothing to be afraid of.

## CHURCH NEWS

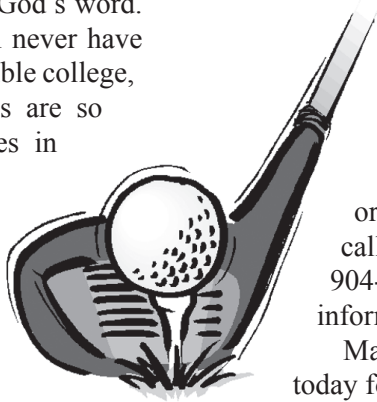
North Hilliard Baptist Church will host a BBQ Dinner sale the Sat., Sept. 7 from 10am - 2pm at the traffic light in Hilliard, choice of pulled pork or chicken, two sides, and a roll for \$10. Also have baked goods, brownies, banana nut, and cinnamon swirl muffins for \$5/bag.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, now offers children's Sunday school classes for 4-8-years old, and one 9 & up, plus adult Sunday School classes at 10 a.m. with service at 10:45 a.m.

# Fire Bible Golf Tournament Nearing

Hilliard First Assembly of God is proud to announce the 9th Annual Fire Bible Golf Tournament to be held Friday, October 11. The tournament, hosted by Hilliard First Assembly, will be held at the North Hampton Golf Club in Fernandina Beach. Monies raised are used 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 pastors will never have the opportunity to attend 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. To learn more about the Fire Bible, visit: [www.firebible.com](http://www.firebible.com).



The church is currently seeking Tournament Sponsors, Hole Sponsors and it’s not too late for Players! Your sponsorship and participation in this event will allow your name or business to receive publicity and recognition to a worthy cause. All proceeds from the event will be given directly to the Bible Alliance to help purchase Fire Bibles to be distributed overseas to pastors. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$2,500; and Hole Sponsors are \$125; Players are \$100 each and team of 4 is \$400. For more information or to register your team, call the church office at: 904-845-2642 for more information. Make sure to register today for this great event!

## Nassau County Teen Court

Join us for Teen Court! Real Teenage offenders...Real Crimes...Real Court Sanctions handed down. All by Teen Attorneys, Jurors and Court Officers.  
**Next Session: Tuesday, September 10, 2024**  
We need you to volunteer to serve on our Jury today! Stay in touch by phone or email! Sign-in between 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. Jeans and collared shirts required for boys; and modest dress for girls. Court begins promptly at 6 p.m. and is over by 7 p.m. Three Hours Community Service for each Court Session!  
We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorneys in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position or serve on the jury should call and speak to the coordinator about joining the team!  
Court meets at the Robert M. Foster Judicial Center in Yulee. Simply show up, sign up and serve on the Jury. Call Nancy, the coordinator, at 904-548-4520 or email [nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com](mailto:nbeasley@nassaucountyfl.com).

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## Callahan Man in Fatal Crash Tuesday

According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, a Callahan man lost his life in a traffic accident Tuesday morning around 8:17 a.m. Per the report, a sedan driven by a 24-year-old Palm Coast man was traveling westbound on Imeson Park Blvd., east of Busch Drive in Jacksonville, in the westbound lane. The other vehicle, a pickup truck driven by a 53-year-old Callahan man, was traveling southbound on Busch Drive, north of Imeson Park Blvd., in

the southbound lane.

The driver of the first vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign, colliding with the approaching vehicle's left front. The impact between the two vehicles, caused the second vehicle to overturn. The first vehicle rotated and came to final rest. The driver of the second vehicle (pickup truck), was pronounced deceased at the scene. The crash is still under further investigation.

## Nassau County Earns Florida Preservation Award

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation has recognized Nassau County for its excellence in historic preservation, earning the Board of County Commissioners a 2024 Florida Preservation Award for its publication Citizen's Guide to Preserving Public Places in Nassau County.

The Citizen's Guide to Preserving Public Places in Nassau County serves as a comprehensive resource for citizens interested in historic preservation. Created in partnership with the Community Planning Collaborative, the guide is designed to fill a gap in local historic preservation and resources. It offers user-friendly information on federal, state and local historic preservation on topics such as cemeteries, house history research, historic sites, and more.

Nassau County is one of Florida's oldest counties with history dating back to indigenous communities and early European contact. The guide highlights the importance of preserving lesser-known historic towns and cemeteries, contributing to the broader understanding of Florida's development. It also emphasizes the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, ensuring



accurate representation of this community by engaging local Gullah/Geechee National representatives. The guide is available both online and in print and has already been distributed to community stakeholders to spur local advocacy and enhance Nassau County's preservation efforts. "This year's Preservation Award winners are wonderful examples of the work being done around the state to protect and promote the stories that make up our shared history," said Florida Trust Board President Mike Cosden.

To view the Citizen's Guide to Preserving Public Places in Nassau County, please visit: <https://nassaufl.co/CitizensGuidetoHistoricPlaces>.

## Living Financially Free

Yvette Outler

### Senior Adult Discounts & Meal Saving Tips

Most senior adults are on a tight, fixed income. I researched companies that are known for their senior adult discounts. I learned that not every like-kind store participates, but it is worth asking!

Here are savings for the asking....

1. Hardees: Age 52+ receive 10% off certain items.
2. McDonalds: Age 60+ receive a small coffee for .55 cents, and small drink for .65 cents.
3. Chick-fil-A: Age 60+ receive a free small coffee or tea without purchase.
4. IHOP: Ages 55+ has a menu just for you!
5. Arby's: Ages 55+ receive 10% off anytime.
6. Harris Teeter: Age 60+ receive 5% off every Thursday.
7. Belk Department Store: Age 55+ receive 15% off on the first Tuesday of every month.
8. Kohl's: Age 60+ receive 15% off on Wednesdays.
9. Ross: Age 55+ receive 10% off on Tuesdays.
10. T.J. Maxx: Age 55+ receive 10% off on Mondays. (Florida only)
11. Pep Boys: Age 55+ receive 10% off anytime.
12. Michael's: Age 55+ receive 10% off anytime.
13. Goodwill: Age 55+ receive 10%-20% off on certain days, vary by location.

Speaking of saving money...

Here are ways to save money on your meals:

1. Cook at home: This may seem obvious, but when you cook at home you are not only saving money on the actual



meal, but you are also saving gas money, tax, and gratuities for your server. If your meal is \$20.00, your tax is \$1.40, tip is \$4.00 and if you use a gallon of gas, it could be an additional \$3.49. Your total bill for dinner out could be \$28.89 instead of your budgeted \$20.00.

2. Eat all your leftovers: Intentionally rotate your already cooked meals to every other day to avoid having back-to-back days of the same meal. Freeze it for next week. This will give you an already cooked meal for your next week's meal plan.

3. Ask the butcher: Typically, the most expensive item in your grocery cart is meat. Ask your butcher when their meat mark down day(s) is for the store. Plan your grocery shopping around that day/time.

4. Reimagine a meal: Meat and two vegetables is unrealistic for most people in today's economy. Skip meat every other day, or twice a week.

5. If you choose to eat out drink water. Tea and soft drinks average \$4.00. For a family of four that is a \$16.00 savings!

Yvette Outler is a Dave Ramsey's Solution Master Financial Coach. If you are in over your head in debt and need help, contact her at [Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com](mailto:Fiscallyfree7@gmail.com).

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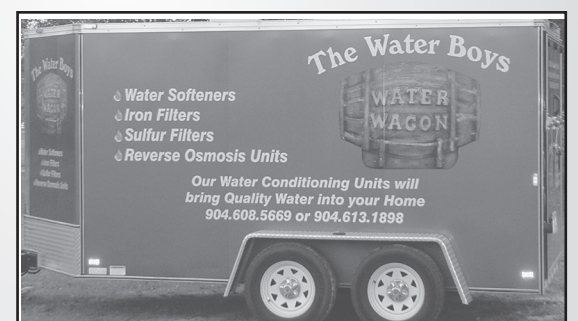
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# Van Zant Retires from NCCOA

Dawn S. West

Congratulations to Mrs. Sue Van Zant on her retirement from the Nassau County Council on Aging, following 22 years of dedicated service. Mrs. Sue worked out of the NCCOA Westside Senior Center located on Ingham Road in Hilliard as a Case Manager. She celebrated her special day with a luncheon held in her honor at the Hilliard center, with great food, family and friends joining the party. She enjoyed going out to meet with clients and help them to get set up with all their needs. "I've certainly made some great friends through the years, here at the office and in the homes of clients," said Sue. "I'm going to miss both my work family and my clients. We have spent some special times together."

Sue and her husband Eddie plan to take one day at a time and enjoy. Mr. Eddie retired several years ago from his logging business and now enjoys time in his workshop. Mrs. Sue plans



to spend some time in her yard and also going through some boxes from their recent move. They are faithful members of Ephesus Baptist Church in Hilliard. "We plan to just sit back and enjoy life for a while and spend more time with our family," added Mrs. Sue. "There comes a time when you just know it's time to give it up. I'm ready to enjoy this new journey in our lives. Eddie and I are truly so blessed!"



# WNHS Teen Entrepreneur



Dawn S. West

It didn't take me very long to figure out that West Nassau High School senior Brantley Rogers is quite the young entrepreneur. From one of several fishing trips with his Papa (Gene Rogers), Brantley was quickly 'hooked' on fishing.

"My Papa gave me a fly rod and when I used it, I loved it," said Brantley. "It was then that I started trying to figure out how to make the flies (lures) for the rods for the best result."

Once he put his mind to it, he was making flies for fly rods and also saltwater jigs. He has a workshop not far from home at his brother's house where he does most of his work. Of course, being a youngster, he is all about social media. Once he started posting some of his work, people were reacting to it. His business name is Low Tide Flies, which can be found on Instagram.

Brantley's flies and jigs can be purchased at Hagan Ace Hardware in

Callahan and the St. Augustine location as well as through contacting Brantley on Instagram. "I caught a red on a fly rod and that also got me into wanting to make more and do more," added Brantley. "Jacob Hagan with Hagan Ace Hardware helped me out a lot with the packaging and barcoding of my merchandise. He is a great supporter of my business and sure appreciate his help."

Brantley is a senior and currently plays on the West Nassau golf team and works for Hubbard Electric in the job program at the school. His future plans are to attend EMT and Fire School to

be a Firefighter/EMT. I'm sure we'll be hearing a lot more about this young entrepreneur and his future endeavors! His proud parents are Andy Rogers of Callahan; and Candy and Jeff Davis of Hilliard.

Congratulations, Brantley!



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# Flashes Fall in Heartbreaker

*Coach Matthew Yancey*

The Hilliard Flashes hosted the Stanton Blue Devils Friday night and fell in a nailbiter by a score of 21-20. The game was plagued by contentious officiating, which overshadowed standout performances from Ethan Garland and Parks Yake.

The Flashes showed promise and improvement from the previous week, jumping out to a 12-0 halftime lead. Ethan Garland opened up the scoring with a 22-yard touchdown reception. Garland caught the ball at the line of scrimmage and was sprung free by a block from Brogan Johns.

Cale Libby found Garland again late in the half for his second touchdown of the game. Stanton cut the lead to 12-7 in the third quarter. Hilliard answered as Libby found Garland again down the sideline to extend the lead to 20-7. The Flashes appeared to put the game away with a defensive stop, but



a questionable roughing the punter call allowed Stanton to maintain possession and cut the score to 20-13.

The Flashes again stopped the Blue Devil offense with four minutes left in the game. But the official ruled a punt was touched a Hilliard player allowing Stanton to again maintain possession. Stanton scored again with two minutes left and converted the ensuing 2-point conversion to take the lead 21-20.

The Flashes mounted a late drive to the Blue Devil 20 before an interception ended any comeback hopes.

On defense, Parks Yake led the charge for Hilliard with an impressive 12 tackles. His relentless effort highlighted the team's determination to fight until the final whistle.

The Flashes return to action this Friday night, as they travel again to Jacksonville to face off against Paxon with a 6:30 p.m. kick off.

Go Flashes!

# Warriors Stomp Panthers



*Maegyn LaCross*

*Coach Waylon Cox*

The West Nassau High School Warriors welcomed the Ridgeview High School Panthers from Orange Park to Warrior field Friday night. Ridgeview has an enrollment of over 1,800 students but proved to be no match for the Warriors.

The Panthers started with the ball but were stopped quickly by a Fisher Johnson interception. The Warriors capitalized on their good field position by a touchdown run from Andi Ataiza. After a fumble on the Panthers next drive that was recovered by Stetson Brown, the Warriors scored on a rushing touchdown from Skyler Freeman to make the score 13-0. The Warriors were not done scoring, as on their next possession Avery Griffin burst through the line with a 42-yard touchdown run to make the score 19-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The Warriors defense came up with another 4th down stop on the next drive. The very next play Pryce Arnold connected with Avery

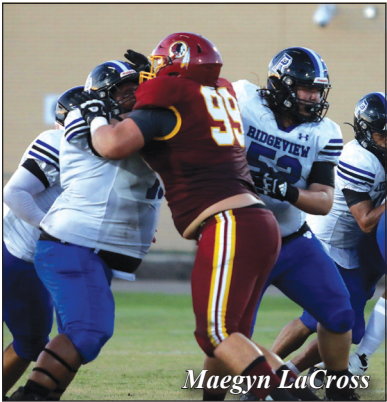
Griffin on a 62-yard touchdown pass. The Panthers had their best offensive drive of the night on the next possession, but it was stopped by a Landon Scaff interception. The Warriors took a 40-0 lead into half after Gaven Carter and Andi Ataiza added touchdown runs. The second half saw a running clock but the Warriors did add a touchdown from Mo Green during that

time.

The Warriors were led on the ground by Avery Griffin who had 3 carries for 68 yards and a touchdown; Andi Atazia had 7 carries for 31 yards and 2 touchdowns; and Skyler Freeman had 4 carries for 29 yards and a touchdown. Pryce Arnold was 3 of 5 passing for 103 yards and a touchdown; Griffin had 1 reception for 62 yards and a touchdown. Colby Gay, Skyler Freeman and Braydon Taylor also added one reception each.

The Warriors were led on defense by linebackers Garrett Rica and Hunter Gentry who had 7 tackles a piece; Landon Scaff, Nick Braddock and Nash Batrous had 6 tackles each as well. Garrett Rica and Caiden Williams both added sacks; while Landon Scaff and Fisher Johnson both added interceptions.

This Friday night the Warriors return to action on the road to an undefeated Lake Weir High School from Ocala. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Go Warriors!



*Maegyn LaCross*

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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.

Tuesday, September 27

Leanne Patrice Gresch, 27, Callahan: Violation of Pre-Trial Release; Resist without Violence; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia with Residue; Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance

Saturday, August 31

Lindsay Rae Adams, 36, Hilliard: Writ of Attachment Child Support

Sunday, September 1

Leslie Edward Geter, 61, Hilliard: Theft Under; Battery Touch or Strike  
Angela Mae Valentine, 38, Callahan: DUI; Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance

NCCOA Westside Senior Life Center  
Activities for September

Join us for our afternoon activity program at Nassau County Council on Aging's Westside Senior Life Center, 37002 Ingham Rd, Hilliard. All programs are free of charge. Questions? Contact Missy Snead, Activities Coordinator, 904-675-9833 or msnead@nassaucountycoa.org.

Monday, September 9: Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. 2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 10: Crocheting Class w/"Hilliard Hookers" 1 - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11: YouTube Crafts 2 - 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 12: Line Dancing with Tanya 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Friday, September 13: Q&A with NCCOA Staff 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, September 16: Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. 2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17: Crocheting Class with "Hilliard Hookers" 1 - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18: YouTube Tai Chi 2 - 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 19: Line Dancing with Tanya 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Friday, September 20: Movie & Popcorn "Air America" 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, September 23: Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. 2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24: Crocheting Class w/"Hilliard Hookers" 1 - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25: YouTube Crafts 2 - 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 26: Line Dancing with Tanya 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Friday, September 27: Q&A with the VFW 2 - 3 p.m.

Monday, September 30: Game Day: Checkers, Connect 4, etc. 2 - 4 p.m.

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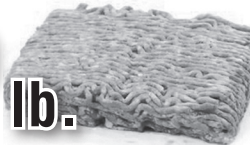
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Nancy Lee Bethea

This fictional column features an inside look into the lives of John and Bethany McNair, a couple who live and work in Nassau County. The McNairs have three children, John Jr., 19, Brianna, 15, and Jacob, 5. Mr. McNair is a transplant from Chicago, Illinois, who teaches art. Mrs. McNair is a Nassau County native who works as a forester and has deep roots here.

I didn't realize an election was coming up until yesterday. Seemingly overnight, political signs sprouted in people's yards, along roadways, and in shop windows. Like flowers in the weeds, the signs add color to our Nassau County landscapes. I'm so thankful our oldest child, John, Jr., recently registered to vote. He's been busy researching candidates and issues. I have to admit, it's been fun watching him take an interest.

"I have to go to a political event and write a paper about it," John, Jr. told us at dinner last night.

"For your government class?" my husband said. John, Jr. nodded. He's been home from college this summer working at the hardware store and taking an online class. "Should be a lot of them coming up," my husband added.



## Naturally Nassau

### Talk is Cheap, but Trust is Priceless



I did a quick search of Nassau County political events on my phone after dinner. I found meetings for Democrats, Republicans, liberal women, liberal men, conservative women, conservative men, and more! Since our son registered as NPA (no party affiliation), he probably wouldn't want to go to a meeting for a specific party. Then, I saw a notice for an upcoming political rally to be held in a large barn. Candidates in all political races were invited to share their platforms. I texted the information to my son, and I received the thumbs-up icon in response. The next Saturday morning, he and I drove to the rally. Most candidates had tables decorated in red, white, and blue set up just outside the barn. Their campaign literature sat on top. Yard signs were

free for the taking. One candidate even offered homemade peanut brittle to all passersby. My son crunched down five pieces!

We soon entered the barn and took our seats. The emcee greeted everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, the program started. We heard from candidates running for Property Appraiser, Port Authority, Clerk of Court, School Superintendent, and Supervisor of Elections, just to name a few. Thankfully, each candidate's speech was limited to three minutes. While my ears got a workout, John, Jr. scribbled notes. When it was over, we stopped at a fast-food place for lunch.

"What did you think?" I asked my son. "Some candidates did well. Others just yapped," he said.

"What do you mean?" "Some of them did a really good job talking about

their qualifications and experience. Others just talked in circles saying nothing," he replied. "I saw you taking notes over there."

He nodded and then said, "I guess I never realized how big a deal voting is."

The next day at lunch, my husband asked John, Jr. if he had gathered enough information to write his paper. "Yes, absolutely. And, I think I know who I'm voting for."

The conversation then shifted to adventures Brianna's had as a lifeguard this summer. She's already taught seven kids to swim! As I served dessert to my family, I noticed John, Jr. take out his notebook and read it. "Studying?" my husband asked him.

"No, my paper's due tomorrow," he said. "I think it's going to be about trust." The conversation paused for a moment.

Then my husband said, "Talk is cheap, but trust is priceless." John, Jr. smiled between bites of cake. "I think I'll use that as the title of my paper!"

Until next time, we will be learning about upcoming elections and living our Naturally Nassau life.

Nancy Lee Bethea is a local writer who leads the Creative Writing Department at LaVilla Middle School of the Arts in Jacksonville. She is married to Stan Bethea and they live in Callahan with their teenage daughter and their rescue cat.





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# OBITUARIES

## CARRIE "LAVERNE" DAVIS



Carrie "Laverne" Davis, 88, of Callahan, passed away peacefully August 30, 2024. Laverne was born November 24, 1935 in Taylor, Florida to Owen and Myrtle Taylor. She worked for Prudential for many years and in retirement owned a plant nursery with her husband, Lorenzie.

Laverne loved her family. You could find her swimming with them at her pool or shopping with them at the mall. She also enjoyed helping her daughter, Denise, at her flower shop. She is preceded in death by her mother Myrtle, father Owen; brother George; and loving husband of 66 years, Lorenzie Davis.

She is survived by her son Dennis Davis; daughter Denise (Walt) Mizell of Callahan; grandchildren Dennis Davis, II, Devin (Erica) Mizell, Kyle (Courtney) Davis and Grant Mizell (Kaitlyn Lee); and great-grandchildren Amelia Mizell, Brady Mizell, Rafe Davis and Tulen Davis (due in December); and her brothers Gene (Sue) Taylor and Larry (Louise) Taylor.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, September 4 at Keen Cemetery, with Pastor Todd Carr officiating.

Arrangements by Shepherd Roberson Funeral Home Callahan Chapel, 904-879-2336.

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

## IMOGENE PREVATT VARNES



Imogene Prevatt Varnes, 88, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully Saturday, August 24, 2024, at home surrounded by her loved ones. She was born in High Springs, Florida in 1936. She was the 11th of 15 children born to Thelma and Morgan Prevatt.

She was a member of Good News Baptist Church in Jacksonville for 20 years and also attended Live Oak Baptist Church in Callahan for the past two years. Her greatest passion was taking pictures of everyone and everything. She avidly enjoyed dancing, playing cards, slot machines, traveling, visiting her extended family, and faithfully attending the annual Prevatt Family Reunions! She was known for her many collections, including "what-nots" and anything John Wayne or Elvis related. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Kaley Cooper, and 12 of her siblings.

She is survived by her four children Dinah Castleberry of Ft. McCoy; Donald (Becky) Dawkins of Hilliard; Deborah Betts of Hilliard; and Patricia Cooper of Gainesville; two siblings Dorothy Brightwell and Jackie (Frances) Goolsby; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 7 prior to the memorial service at 2 p.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler.

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

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# WNHS Now Accepting Hall of Fame Nominations

West Nassau High School has opened up the nominations for the Hall of Fame. Nominations are due by Monday, September 16 to West Nassau High School.

In order to be inducted, an individual, living or deceased, must meet the following criteria:

Have graduated from WNHS at least 10 school years prior to the current one; 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; Exhibited excellence in athletics at WNHS and/or in college, professional



or semiprofessional sports; Exhibited excellence in their trade or profession; Exhibited excellence as a member of society in the form of community service or leadership; Exhibited exemplary service and commitment to the WNHS community.

Applications will be accepted until September 16, 2024 and the applications are good for 5 years. Applications may be found on the West Nassau website or picked up at the school.

Completed forms may be emailed to Richard Knott at: Knotttri@nassau.k12.fl.us, mailed to: WNHS, One Warrior Drive, Callahan, 32011, or returned to the school.

# USCSF Announces University of US Classes

The U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation announced that on Monday, September 23 at 4:45 p.m., the University of US will be welcoming students from Nassau County to begin the semester. The students invited to attend are from the four public high schools, the Home Education Community, and Lindisfarne Hall, along with any other high school students who reside in Nassau County. The Honorable Adrian Soud will be the initial lecturer, speaking about the Declaration of Independence, our Heritage, and the Founders.

Classes this year will be held in the Bean Center at FSCJ in Yulee on the fourth Monday of every month through March 2025 with a hiatus in December. The other lectures will cover The Federalist papers, The Articles, The Amendments, The Most Important Supreme Court Justices and The Most Important Supreme Court Cases. This year the U.S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation and the University of US will provide over \$50,000 in scholarships and awards. Students who attend five of the six classes, maintain a B average in their high school, and pass the University of US final exam will receive a Certificate of



Graduation. In addition, juniors and seniors who meet this criteria, will be eligible to compete for 5 scholarships in the Essay Competition. The number one winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and the other four winners will each receive \$5,000 scholarships. There will also be two \$1,000 leadership scholarships for outstanding students who do not win in the Essay Competition. All students who graduate will receive a \$100 award and any student who submits a qualified essay will receive a \$100 award.

The 6th University of US Constitution Bowl will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025 at Wildlight Elementary. The four first place team members will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship; the second place team members will each receive a \$500 scholarship; and the 3rd place team members receive a \$250 scholarship.

# OREMC's 85th Annual Meeting September 14

The 85th Okefenokee REMC (OREMC) Annual Meeting is an official business meeting, but also a celebration of service, ingenuity and a testament to the people behind the power---then and now---who work diligently to power the lives of our communities every day. This is an opportunity for OREMC members to meet and mingle with their elected Board of Directors, the leadership team and employees, as well as learn about OREMC programs, initiatives and business updates.



The 2024 OREMC Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 14, at the Brantley County High School, Highway 82 West, Nahunta.

- Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will be drive-thru with access through the Middle School gate.
- OREMC members need to bring the preprinted registration card they will receive with their official annual meeting notification letter to register and receive their attendance gift.
- Attendance gifts will be presented to members at the registration stop, followed by a refreshment stop. Additional beverages and coffee will be available at the refreshment counter located just outside the gym in the high school.
- Members will be directed to follow the road around toward the high school for parking.
- Musical entertainment will be provided 8:30 -10 a.m. Activities will be available for the kids throughout the morning.
- The official business meeting will start at 10 a.m.

During the business meeting, members will hear reports from OREMC's Board President and General Manager. Elections will be finalized for three members of OREMC's Board of Directors to serve for three-year terms representing: District 1 – Baker County (Florida), District 4 – Brantley County (Georgia), and District 5 – Middle Brantley County (Georgia).

Raffle prizes, superlative prizes and a grand prize will be awarded to those in attendance at the conclusion of the business meeting—you must be present to win.

Please contact us about any special needs or requirements for your participation in the Annual Meeting by calling our office at (800) 262-5131 or emailing us at member.service@oremc.com prior to September 14, or by contacting one of our employees at the meeting.

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