EARLY VOTING
Now through November 2
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Daily

WESTSIDE JOURNAL

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
WARRIORS
vs Dixie County
@ 7:30 p.m.
FLASHES
@ Fort White
@ 7:30 p.m.

VOLUME XXI ISSUE 12 | HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

"THE LORD DIRECTS THE STEPS OF THE GODLY. HE DELIGHTS IN EVERY DETAIL OF THEIR LIVES. THOUGH THEY STUMBLE, THEY WILL NEVER FALL, FOR THE LORD HOLDS THEM BY THE HAND." - PSALM 23-24

West Nassau High School Awards 2024 Hall of Fame Class

Each year at homecoming, West Nassau High School awards the new Hall of Fame class. A committee reviews the nominations and chooses up to five new members to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. There are guidelines for the candidates to be nominated. This year's class includes three candidates: the late Mr. Eddie Reynolds; Coach Chris Hicken and Dawn Stearn West.

The late **Mr. Eddie Reynolds**: Beth Reynolds accepted the award on behalf of her late husband with their children, Kim and Jeremy, and their spouses and grandchildren. Mr. Reynolds proudly served his country in the US Army during Vietnam. He received his Master's in Educational Leadership from UNF in 1973. He served as a Social Studies teacher and Driver's Ed instructor in 1972-73; and served as Assistant Principal from 1973-1995, serving 23 years at West Nassau High School. He also served in the community as a Little League coach; was a Certified Hunter Safety Instructor and held classes in the community. He also founded and sponsored the Outdoor Life Club at West Nassau to promote conservation of our natural resources. He was instrumental in establishing a Dual Enrollment Program so that high school students could earn college credits before graduation. He also expanded vocational programs enabling students to learn and master the skills needed for various careers in welding, construction, mechanics and healthcare. Following his passing in 1995, The Eddie Reynolds Vocational Scholarship was established. Over 60 West Nassau graduates have been awarded scholarships totaling approximately $30,000.

Coach Chris Hicken: Chris accepted the award with his wife Misty and numerous family members. He was a 1977 graduate of West Nassau High School where he lettered three years in football, baseball and track. He attended Henderson State University, and was the starting fullback for 3 years on the football team. As a coach, Hicken coached football at West Nassau 9 years as head football coach and 11 years as the defensive coordinator. During his tenure, the teams reached the playoffs 5 times and played 2 bowl games. He was also chosen District Coach of the Year 4 times. He also served as the Head Baseball coach for 8 years, achieving the 1990 District and Regional Champions and won over 140 games; and coached softball for 13 years, achieving 11 District Champions; 5 Regional Champions and 5 Final Four appearances and winning over 300 games.



Shown (l to r) are Dawn S. West, Coach Chris Hicken and Beth Reynolds representing the late Eddie Reynolds.

Dawn Stearn West: Dawn accepted the award with her husband Roger, children Jenny and Mark Thompson and Levi and Summer West, grandchildren, parents Coach Jim and Julia Stearn and siblings Marci Scott and Gus and Christie Stearn. Dawn and her family moved to Callahan in 1964, where her father was the coach and she served as a mascot. She is a 1978 graduate of West Nassau High School where she was a part of the first flag team in the Warrior Band, serving as Co-captain each year. Following graduation, she began her community involvement working for Dr. P.W. Shaffer (dentist) in Callahan for 14 years as a dental assistant and patient comforter to many. Following the birth of her children, she took time off to volunteer at school in their classes. In 2003, the opportunity came from a friend, Mark Thompson (not son-in-law), who owned Florida Sun Printing to start a paper. Terrified, she jumped at the opportunity to begin the Westside Journal. In 2004, Dawn and Roger purchased the paper and are humbled to be in their 21st year of publishing. The paper, that reaches all residents in Callahan, Bryceville and Hilliard every week, continues to thrive. Dawn is involved with the Council on Aging Westside Senior Center and a weekly visitor to the Life Care Center of Hilliard.

Congratulations! If you are interested in nominating someone for the West Nassau Hall of Fame, applications can be picked up at West Nassau or by visiting the school website.

Hilliard Town News

Dawn S. West

The Hilliard Town Council met Thursday night for their final regular meeting of October. The first agenda item was the approval and adoption of Resolution 2024-18. The resolution concerned the Town of Hilliard recognizing City Government Week, October 21-27, 2024 and to encourage all citizens to support the celebration and corresponding activities. The resolution included: That the Town of Hilliard does encourage all citizens, city government officials and employees to do everything possible to ensure that this week is recognized and celebrated accordingly; that the Town of Hilliard does encourage educational partnerships between city government and schools; and that the Town of Hilliard does support and encourage all city governments to actively promote and sponsor "Florida City Government Week." Each year for City Government week, the town enlists the writing of third grade students from Hilliard Elementary School to write essays about, "What would I do if I was the Mayor of Hilliard?" The essays were completed and the winners will be announced Tuesday, October 22 with a 'Mock Council meeting' with third and fifth graders participating.

The next item concerned the approval and adoption of Resolution 2024-19, which concerned the town accepting a Florida Department of Transportation amendment for the extension of the Public Transportation Grant agreement.

The following agenda item was the approval of a Minor Subdivision Application No. 20240820 for property owner Paul Knight. "The Parcel is Zoned C-1 and is vacant. It currently serves as the parking lot for a set of 4 apartments on the north end of the

See 'Hilliard Town News' on page 3

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NASSAU COUNTY VOTERS MAY VOTE AT ANY LOCATION DURING EARLY VOTING.

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For Early Voting Locations

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A Word From the Publisher

What an amazing week it was for the fair! I just want to give a shout out to the Northeast Florida Fair Association for doing an amazing job with our fair this year. I have been attending the fair since I was a tiny tot and the changes that have been made are incredible. I love the defined areas: rides, home goods, food, entertainment and of course the animals. It was so enjoyable to walk around on sidewalks and have space to look and enjoy everything. As I mature, change is sometimes hard, however these changes have only made 'our' fair so much better. And the best part is God provided amazing weather and no rain to make the 10 days extra special!



Moving on, I can't express how important it is to VOTE! Voting is a privilege that was instilled in me from an early age. When I turned 18 years old, my dad made sure I went and registered to vote and have voted every time since then. Yes, many times, I voted so I wouldn't disappoint my dad and have learned with age, how very important every vote is. Please, please, make time to cast your ballot. This ballot is pretty long with several judges and six long amendments. Last week, Roger shared a voting guide, with parts taken from the United Christians of America. We also have copies at our office should you need one. This election is by far one of the most important elections in my lifetime. I remind myself daily, that God is in control and will continue to be until He returns to call us home! However, He also expects us to do our part by voting. We must remember it is our constitutional right! Roger and I are normally election day voters, mainly because we forget about early voting. This year however, it is very important to vote as soon as you can, as we don't know what tomorrow may bring!



Early voting started Wednesday



at 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., every day including the weekends. Registered voters may vote at any location through early voting however on election day you must vote at your regular voting precinct. Local Early Voting Sites: Callahan location: Walter Junior Boatright County Building, Mickler Street; Hilliard location: Hilliard Community Center, Pecan Street. Make sure you Vote!

Humbled is how I felt Friday night as I was inducted into the West Nassau High School Hall of Fame. My family moved to Callahan when I was 4-years old. What an amazing life it has been for me. My surprise, first of all, to be nominated and shocked to be chosen. From being a mascot for Callahan High School, a cheerleader and homecoming queen at Callahan Middle School, and serving as a flag girl at West Nassau High School, my school years were filled with lifelong friendships. My first job as a dental assistant for Dr. Shaffer, indoctrinated me to serve people, as comforting words in the dental chair were key! Later, being a part of starting the Westside Journal was scary but rewarding. And shortly after, purchasing and taking the reins of a business that reaches so many was challenging, but again rewarding. Being honored at my high school, where my children graduated and grandchildren attend is overwhelming. Having Roger, my parents (my dad was inducted two years ago), my siblings and special friends attending the ceremony was precious.

As I reflect back on these years, it wasn't all rosy and stress-free. There were many bumps in the road. My faith in a loving and forgiving Father helped steer my path. I accepted Christ as my Savior as a young child and I'm glad to say I have certainly grown in my faith through the years. God has opened so many doors and ways for me to serve Him that I never saw myself doing. I'm thankful for His faithfulness to never leave my side. As I drifted many times, it was His loving arms that continued to provide the strength and courage needed for each day. Without Him, I am nothing. I'm so thankful for Jesus!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

In the Kitchen... Caramel Apple Cheesecake Dip

4 whole graham crackers, crushed
2 cups no-bake cheesecake filling mix
1 cup caramel dip
1 1/2 cups whipped cream or whipped topping
1/2 cup roasted salted peanuts, chopped
sliced apples, pretzel crisps or twists, graham crackers and/or vanilla wafers for serving

Place graham cracker crumbs in the bottom of a pie plate or deep serving dish. Carefully spread cheesecake filling over graham cracker crumbs, taking care not to mix the crumbs into the filling. Microwave caramel dip for 10 seconds to loosen it and spread dip evenly over cheesecake filling. Spread whipped topping over caramel and sprinkle evenly with peanuts. Freeze for 10 minutes before serving, or refrigerate until ready to serve with sliced apples, pretzels and cookies.

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Hilliard Town News

Continued from page 1

lot and a business on the south end of the parking lot. Mr. Knight owns the apartments as well as the parking lot, but does not own the additional business. Mr. Knight has shared a desire to ensure that this neighbor business will have parking for the future and will not have to rely on the future owners of the apartments and parking lot for this purpose. It is the intent of Mr. Knight to sell the south half of the parking lot to said business owner after the approval of this split," stated Hilliard Land Use Administrator Lee Anne Wollitz.

The council approved the position process for Kendra McNeal's transition from introductory/probationary status to regular fulltime.

The council also approved to accept the resignation of Justin Tuten, Streets and Water & Wastewater Technician/ Backflow Prevention Coordinator, effective October 11, 2024.

The council reviewed and accepted the Land Use Administrator, Building Official and Code Enforcement Officers, quarterly reports from July 1 through September 30, 2024.

The council approved two payables for the Hilliard Airpark that are all 100% grant funded by the FDOT. The first payable to AECOM Technical Services, Inc., project name: Design & Construct New Box Hangar & Hangar Repair for $22,288.20. The second payable, also to AECOM for project name: Environmental Assessment for property acquisitions for $5,000.

The next agenda item concerned another payable to TB Landmark Construction, Inc. for project name: Oxford Street Force Main rerouting for $36,163.51. This item is an FDEP grant funded item.

The final item was a request regarding a discussion concerning a person representing Railside Live to place a video camera on the volunteer fire station to video trains passing through Hilliard. It is a livestream that would be used. After some discussion, the council advised Councilman Dallis Hunter to bring more information to the council after talking to the representative. One thing that was discussed was the homes on the other side of the track, as they are not agreeable to having their homes on livestream video. This is one of the questions Hunter will address with the representative.

In closing comments, Mayor John Beasley reminded the council that the Hilliard Harvest Fest will be held Saturday, October 26 from 12-5 p.m. with vendors, food trucks, fun and games! Beasley also reminded the council and guests that voting begins October 23, so make sure you Vote!

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

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

By opening your heart and home to a youth in **Foster Care**, you can help forge a lifetime of success and happiness for a child right here in Nassau. Your support can open a world of possibilities. Are you ready to learn more? Contact recruiter@fssnf.org or 904-421-5864 for information.

ARMS (Abuse Recovery Ministry Services) offers classes in your area where women learn how to recognize, understand, and heal from domestic abuse. We use biblical principles to encourage beliefs and behaviors that heal. Call 503-846-9284 or 866-262-9284 for specific locations and time.

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JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

At a rally in Wisconsin last Thursday, Kamala made a huge statement about her inner-being. While she was talking about her deep-rooted pro-abortion convictions, some of the attendees began to shout, "Jesus is Lord." This prompted Kamala to say, "Oh, you guys are at the wrong rally. I think you meant to go to the smaller one down the street." She then let out a kamala-cackle. In the Webster Dictionary, the word evil should just have a picture of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. It is very obvious that policies consistent with the Christian faith are not welcomed in the Democratic Party. Kamala is blatant, saying people who hold those beliefs should not be backing her candidacy. I will go as far as saying that this election is in actuality God versus Satan. I am not saying Trump is God, he is far from that. However, he does hold convictions of God in his heart, nor am I saying Kamala is Satan…but she does hold many attributes of Satan.

Here is some of Donald Trumps' advise to everyone. He says it took him over 10 years to learn these, but it has been extremely helpful in his life. 1) Life waits for nobody. Get up every day and keep pushing through no matter what. 2) Make sure you take care of yourself. If something happens to you the world will move on and you will fall behind. 3) If you don't work to build your dream life someone will hire you to build theirs. 4) Work in silence, celebrate in private, people love to ruin things. 5) Don't regret your past, just learn from it and move on. 6) No one cares, work harder to become better each day. 7) Ignore advice from anyone who doesn't live the life you want to live. 8) Rule over your emotions. A calm mind can handle any situation. 9) If you find someone better than you, don't hate, ask them for advice and cooperate with them. 10) You are truly at peace with yourself when you mind your own business.

If only we all would practice this, we would all be better off. Is there anyone who thinks Kamala could orate such a profound set of guidelines? If you are not sure then watch the interviews she had with Oprah and Brent Baier.

CocoFun: They never thought their farm kid would say this after joining the Marines:

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell brother Walt and brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quickly before all of the places are filled. I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. but I am getting used to it, so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men have to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham and other regular foods. Tell them you can always sit by the two city boys that live off coffee. Their food plus yours, holds until noon when you get fed again. We go on "route marches," which the Sgt. says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him differently. A "route march" is about as far as our mailbox at home. Then the city boys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bullseye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move. All you do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. Then we have hand to hand combat. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be careful though, they break really easily. Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Alice

As always…that's just my opinion! Trump 2024 - Make sure to vote!

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The Letters of Paul

Pastor Benjie Loyd, River Road Baptist Church, Hilliard



Now that we have left the book of Acts, we will consider the next 13 books in the New Testament. The 13 books under consideration are called the Pauline Epistles. Epistles or letters are the only genre of literature that Paul wrote. As I had mentioned in the book of Acts, almost all of the rest of the New Testament comes out of the historical narrative in the book of Acts. Paul was converted to Christianity in AD 34 and he was martyred in AD 64. The first letter that Paul wrote was I Thessalonians (AD 51) and the last letter that Paul wrote was II Timothy (AD 64). All of Paul's letters were occasional documents because he was writing to specific churches in a specific context and he was dealing with the specific problems of the churches that he was addressing.

It is important to understand the arrangement of Paul's letter in our Bibles. Paul's letters are not arranged in chronological order. Paul's letters are arranged in order of length. Romans is the longest of his letters and Philemon is the shortest of his letters. Paul's letters are divided into two groups: letters that were written to places (Romans-Thessalonica); and letters written to people (I Timothy-Philemon). Due to space limitations, I will summarize each of Paul's 13 letters to a sentence.

• Romans: The Gospel that everyone must believe (1-3) is the gospel that justifies (4-5), sanctifies (6-8), reveals God's purpose (9-11), and transforms us and our world (12-16).

• I Corinthians: The response of Paul to Chloes' report of a messed-up church (1-6) and the corrective the confusion of the Corinthian church (7-16).

• II Corinthians: Paul's explanation of his ministry (1-7), encouragement to the Corinthians to show generosity (8-9), and the defense of his ministry against his critics (10-13).

• Galatians: Paul defends his message (1-2), defines his message (3-4), and describes real -life in the Spirit (5-6) to the Galatian church.

• Ephesians: The theology that makes unity in the church possible (1-3) and the practice that makes unity in the church actual (4-6).

• Philippians: A book of joy that reveals how joy is found in Christ being our life (1), example (2), goal (3), and contentment (4).

• I Thessalonians: Paul deals with the abrupt nature of his departure from Thessalonica (1-3) and offers pastoral exhortations regarding Christian living (4-5).

• II Thessalonians: Paul reveals his thanksgiving and prayer for the Thessalonians (1) and clarifies confusion regarding Christ's return (2-3)

• I Timothy: Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding the resistance of false teaching (1), maintaining order in the church (2-3), embracing true spirituality (4), relationships within the church (5), and warning concerning the church (6).

• II Timothy: In light of Paul's looming death, he urges Timothy to stay loyal to the Gospel (1), loyal to Christ (2), and to stay loyal to the end (3).

• Titus: Paul instructs Titus and the congregation in Crete to have church order (1), and how to cultivate healthy relationships with each other (2-3).

• Philemon: A powerful letter of how Paul serves as a mediator between Onesimus who needs to be forgiven and to Philemon who needs to forgive Onesimus.

Nassau County and Jacksonville NAMI Affiliates Merge

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Nassau County Florida, Inc. and NAMI Jacksonville Florida, Inc. today announced a merger aimed at increasing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illness and their families. "This merger allows our affiliates to share programming, online tools, volunteer and professional resources, and fundraising to benefit the people who rely on NAMI services in Nassau County," said Nancy Bell, outgoing Board President of NAMI Nassau County. "It will be a gamechanger for the people who rely on us."

Through the combined organization – called NAMI Jacksonville Florida, Inc. – staff members and volunteers from Jacksonville and Nassau County will collaborate on the expansion of education and support programming in Nassau County, as well as in northern Jacksonville areas not currently served by either prior organization. NAMI Nassau County's online tools and helpline will be merged with the more robust capabilities of NAMI Jacksonville. The merged organizations will also increase their combined ability to raise programming funds and advocate for state and federal policies that affect people living with mental illness. "Mental illness does not recognize county borders, and people who live with mental illness benefit when we unite to offer more support and access," said Suzanne Mailloux, Executive Director of NAMI Jacksonville. "I believe we have found a way to create a larger and more capable organization without losing any local focus in either area."

NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness

The NAMI Jacksonville Board will include representation from Nassau County, and a Nassau County Advisory Board will help ensure that local needs are identified and addressed. The combined organization will be led by Ms. Mailloux.

During the transition, the leadership teams from both organizations are committed to ensuring that all stakeholders – staff, volunteers, donors and, most importantly, the communities they serve, are informed and involved in the process.



BES Bobcats of the Month

Shown are the Bryceville Elementary Bobcats of the Month for the month of October. October's trait was "ALL About being Responsible." These students know what responsibility is and have shown that on a daily basis!

Fall Festival
at
Ephesus Baptist Church
48143 Ephesus Rd • Hilliard • 904-845-3426



Saturday, October 26th
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Food • Games • Bingo • Train Rides
Face Painting • Prizes • Corn Pool
Everyone is invited to celebrate God's goodness!

Gateway to Life Ministries
Assemblies of God International Fellowship
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Psalm 45:1
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Hallelujah Festival
at 1753 Boyd Road in Bryceville
(a property of Brandy Branch Baptist Church)
Sunday, October 27
5 - 7:30 p.m.



Food • Hay Rides
Games • Candy
Balloon Art
Snow Cones
Popcorn
Funnel Cakes
Free for Everyone!

Bryceville First Baptist Church
Trunk or Treat



Saturday, October 26th
5 - 8 p.m.
FREE Community-wide Event!
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Callahan Town News

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of October. The first order of business was a request from the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department for new bunker gear. "We currently have 12 new members in the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department. We have three sets of bunker gear that are available to use at this time," said CVFD Chief Chris Wood. "I have been researching gear and costs. I am requesting the town's assistance to purchase 11 new sets of the gear. I've talked with a representative from General Fire Equipment. One complete set of bunker gear (pants, jacket, helmet, suspenders, etc.) normally costs $3,833.53. However, since we are purchasing 11 sets, he can sell it to us for $2,691.50 each. It's quite a savings."

"Are there any grants that might help pay for the gear?" asked Councilwoman Ashton Vargas.

"Yes there are. I just haven't had a chance to check into them," added Wood.

The council opted to wait a little while and see if they can get some grant funding for the gear.

"You don't want to wait too long as the prices may increase," added Town Manager Mike Williams.

The next agenda item concerned The Vault, located at SCW Liquors in Callahan. "I am here to request that the Town of Callahan look at codifying the liquor purchase and consumption ordinance within the town limits," said Joe Zimmerman, representing The Vault. "I have brought a copy of the county ordinance on the subject, which allows the sale and consumption of liquor, wine and beer to be sold on Sundays at 7 a.m. or whenever the business opens."

The council did a consensus to approve changing the town ordinance to coordinate with the county ordinance. The town attorney will draw up an amended ordinance for the next meeting.

The following item concerned the council's approval of Resolution 2024-R14 to donate $500 to the Episcopal Children's Service.

The next agenda item was presented by Williams concerning the Town Christmas Lights. "Per Florida Power & Light, Christmas lights or banners will no longer be allowed to hang on any FPL poles through town," said Williams. "They can be hung on light poles (street light poles) which would have to be bought, set and placed as we (Callahan) don't have any light poles. This gives the council a chance to think of something else to do throughout town for decorations."

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, November 4 at 7 p.m.

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK



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with 2 Touchdowns



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6 - 8 p.m.
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FREE FOR EVERYONE!
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Nassau Legislative Delegation Meeting Notice



Sen. Yarborough



Rep. Black

State Sen. Clay Yarborough and State Rep. Dean Black have announced that the Organizational Meeting to elect the 2025 Delegation Chair and Vice Chair and the general legislative public hearing will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 12 – 3 p.m. in the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners Chamber, James Page Government Complex, located at 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097.

For placement on the meeting agenda, complete the Speaker's Request Forms and all materials/handouts must be submitted to Kellie Walker via U.S. mail at 1615 Huffingham Road, Suite 1, Jacksonville, FL 32216, or email Walker.Kellie@flsenate.gov by close of business on Friday, November 8, 2024.

If submitting materials/handouts via U.S. mail, individuals are asked to provide four (4) sets of three-hole-punched, 8 ½ x 11 copies, and use the Speaker's Request Form as a cover sheet to be included in the Members' meeting packets.

Questions may be directed to Kellie Walker, Office of Senator Clay Yarborough, at 904-723-2035 or by emailing Walker.Kellie@flsenate.gov.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Chapter 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons in need of special accommodations to participate in the meetings, including agendas, interpreters, or assisted listening devices, should contact Kellie Walker at 904-723-2035 or Walker.Kellie@flsenate.gov by close of business on Friday, November 8, 2024.

All Nassau Legislative Delegation meetings are open to the public.

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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.

In Response

Dear Editor,

While reading the 'response' from one of the obviously educated but misinformed readers, it is evident some people will say anything to further the agenda of the liberal democrat party. I do not agree that the "Woke movement just want to have the right to live how they see fit."

It is quite evident that the corporate democrat supporting liberal media, television commercials, movies (especially Netflix) and the Hollywood elite, want to force the Woke lifestyle. It started with our first not fully African American President promoting men in the women's restrooms. Now people who only want to make history by electing our first not fully African American woman as president (who supports funding sex change for prisoners to further the movement) do not care about the destruction of our country. I truly hope that the individual who submitted the article is not one of our educators in our school system indoctrinating our children. If you know who I can contact to buy that $100,000 watch please let me know.

Buddy Hayes

Vote Values!

Dear Editor,

Khrushchev's prophecy for those who need a second time to read it! From 1959 and spoken at the United Nations and broadcast all over the United States live. I know I've written this before but I hope it will get to more people this time. Read it over and over again until you get it…. "Your children's children will live under communism. You Americans are so gullible. No, you won't accept communism outright; but we will keep feeding you small doses of socialism until you finally wake up and find you already have communism. We do not have to invade the United States, we will destroy you from within!"

I just tried to find this on Google. Two months ago, I had no trouble. Now Google says it never happened. I was 17 years old and a senior in high school and I saw him on TV. That's right I had a TV in 1959, thanks to my grandparents. I will never forget him banging his shoe on the lectern! All of you Harris fans, read and remember! We were warned.

Please God, forgive us.

Jackie Sikes

Academy Sports + Outdoors to Open in Yulee

Academy Sports + Outdoors, a leading full-line sporting goods and outdoor recreation retailer whose mission is to provide "Fun for All," will open its first store in Yulee, Monday, November 4, with grand opening festivities beginning Thursday, November 7 through Sunday, November 10. The store is located at 463758 East State Road 200. The more than 63,000-square-foot store brings a wide assortment of sports and outdoors merchandise to the area. This marks Academy's 19th location in Florida.

The new Academy Sports + Outdoors store will carry a wide assortment of sports and outdoors products for customers to choose from to kickstart their fun. Academy is focused on providing the best service, experience, and value to help customers pursue the activities that they love and make new memories on any budget. Yulee customers can expect to find Academy team members who are passionate, along with a unique assortment from top brands like Nike, adidas, Carhartt, Stanley, Titleist, Shimano, Brooks, YETI and more. Academy also offers tremendous everyday value and quality through its exclusive, private label brands such as Magellan Outdoors, Freely, R.O.W., BCG, H2OX, Redfield, and Mosaic.

For more information regarding the grand opening deals and events text YULEE to 22369* or visit: www.academy.com/yulee. Customers are invited to sign-up for Academy's rewards program, myAcademy, which includes a 10% welcome offer, lower free shipping minimum ($25), insider access to personalized offers, deals and products, faster online and in-app checkout, and an annual birthday reward. See Terms for more details.

This location is expected to bring an estimated 60 new jobs to the community. Individuals interested in careers at Academy Sports + Outdoors can visit: www.careers.academy.com to apply for open positions.

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FALL FESTIVALS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
3741 Heavenly Way • Hilliard

Fall Festival, Trunk-or-Treat & Chili Cook Off Friday, October 25 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Friendship Alliance Church
44491 Mary Sauls Circle • Callahan

Fall Bonfire - Saturday, October 26 from 5 - 8 p.m.

Hayride • S'mores • Candy • Burgers • Hotdogs & Chips • Games

Callahan Methodist Church
119648 US Highway 301 • Callahan

Fall Bazaar & Cub Scout Yard Sale - Saturday, October 26 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Crafts • Vendors • Plants • Raffles • Kids Corner • Baked Goods & more!

Gateway to Life Ministries
37837 Eastwood Rd. • Hilliard

Fall Festival • Saturday, October 26 from 12 - 5 p.m.

Pumpkin Painting • Face Painting • Hayride • Photo Booth • Hotdogs • Popcorn • Games

West Nassau High School (FFA, BETA & Key Club)
1 Warrior Dr. • Callahan

Fall Festival • Saturday, October 26 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Fall Festival • Trunk or Treat • Vendors • Haunted House ($5/per person)

Hilliard First Baptist Church
15850 CR 108 • Hilliard

Fall Festival • Sunday, October 27 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Trunk or Treat • Games • Prizes • Inflatables • Pony Rides • Candy • Food & Fun!

First Baptist Church Gray Gables
54031 Church Road • Callahan

Fall Festival • Sunday, October 27 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Trunk or Treat • S'mores • Hot Dogs • Snow Cones • Hayrides • Games • Face Painting

Brandy Branch Baptist Church
at 1753 Boyd Road • Bryceville

Hallelujah Festival • Sunday, October 27 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Hayrides • Games • Candy • Balloon Art • Snow Cones • Popcorn • Funnel Cakes

Callahan First Baptist Church
45090 Green Avenue • Callahan

Fall Festival • Sunday, October 27 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Delicious Food • Fun Games • Tons of Candy • Fun for the Whole Family

Buford Grove Baptist Church
553274 US Highway 1 • Hilliard

Trunk or Treat • Tuesday, October 29 from 6 - 8 p.m.

Reindeer Train • Candy • Fun • Rain or Shine

River Road Baptist Church
21067 County Road 121 • Hilliard

Trunk or Treat Fall Festival • Thursday, October 31 from 6 - 8 p.m.

Candy • Popcorn • Nachos & Cheese • Snow Cones • Hot Dogs • Funnel Cakes and more!

Hilliard First Assembly of God
550920 US Hwy. 1 • Hilliard

Fall Festival • Thursday, October 31 from 6 - 8 p.m.

Games • Prizes • Candy • Cotton Candy • Hot Dogs • Bounce Houses • Hayrides • Train Rides

Westside Journal Visits Canada!



Best friends, Kathleen Scheibe and Candy Moore recently enjoyed a trip to Niagara Falls Ontario, Canada and also took a copy of the Westside Journal with them! Other sites they visited included: The Tunnel at the Niagara Parks Power Station; a 2,200 ft tunnel created in 1901 using hand tools & dynamite, located 180' below ground & was used to remove water which was used in the generators; Journey behind the falls (a loud, close-up view of the back of the falls), The Whirlpool Aero Car (a cable car 200' above Niagara Gorge where you can cross the international border 4 times without a passport; and the White Water Walk (a picturesque boardwalk of the Niagara River's class 6 rapids). Our friendship has taken us many places with our motto: We are closer to sunset than sunrise so we are going to live life to the fullest. Can't wait for our next adventure!

Westside Journal Visits Utah!

Devin and Jennifer Bilger recently enjoyed their honeymoon on a trip to Utah and Arizona. Somehow, they remembered to take along a copy of the Westside Journal with them! Shown is the couple hiking the Narrows at Zion National Park in Utah. They also visited Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada, and Bryce Canyon National Park, Capital Reef National Park, Grand Canyon, and Lower Antelope Canyon among many other places! Congratulations!



RETIRED FLAG REMINDER

Is your American flag looking tattered and torn after recent storms? What better time than now to replace it with a new one? Retired flags may be brought to the Westside Journal office for proper disposal.

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Our current Store Manager is being promoted! We are seeking an experienced and motivated manager to help drive our continued success.

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New Beginnings and Milestones

Lorraine Swinehart Celebrates 90th Birthday!



Lorraine Swinehart, of Hilliard, celebrated her 90th birthday October 14. She was born October 14, 1934 in Duluth, Minnesota. She has lived in Hilliard for 32 years. She attends the Assembly of God Pentecostal Church in Hilliard. She enjoys gardening and canning her vegetables. Loves doing yard work and crafting making wreaths and diamond dot paintings.

For the last 20 years, her children have gotten together for her birthday. Diane and Linda travel to Florida to celebrate and spend the week with Taylor. Dale and Barb travel up to all be together. She celebrated her special milestone with her children in a fun fashion…literally! This year they began their day with a trip to Fernandina Beach and Waycross, Georgia to shop and have lunch, with her girls. This year they had a big celebration for her 90th birthday with family and friends. Some dressed like back in the 50's, poodle skirts and pink lady jackets!



She has five children Diane Tattrie of Arizona, Linda and Donnie Yant of Michigan, Randy and Tara Christner of Indiana, Taylor Diamond of Hilliard and Dale and Barb Swinehart of Florida. She also has 15 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Briley Jane Johnson



Justin and Brittney Johnson are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Briley Jane Johnson. Briley was born March 1, 2024 at 4:19 a.m. at Baptist Hospital Jacksonville. She weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Paternal grandparents are Marvin and Tonia Johnson of Callahan. Maternal grandparents are Jeffery and Caralyn Williams of Callahan.

Proud great-grandmother is Jane Kiplinger of Dothan, Alabama.

Vivian Armstrong Celebrates 85th Birthday



Vivian Armstrong, of Hilliard, celebrated her 85th birthday October 9. She was born October 9, 1939 in Folkston, Georgia, to John and Wynelle Higginbotham. She had big plans to celebrate her special milestone with friends but Hurricane Milton had other plans! Vivian rented a house on Kingsley Lake her second favorite place in Florida, her first being Hilliard, for a few of her girlfriends to hang out on October 9. And of course, that's when 'Milton' came in. We are thankful that we were spared from the storm and had a great day anyway. Vivian rescheduled her time with friends and they had a wonderful time together! Congratulations!

Mr. and Mrs. Devin Blaine Bilger



Jennifer Lynn Nichols and Devin Blaine Bilger were united in marriage October 14, 2024 at 5 p.m. at Plantation Oaks Farms in Callahan.

The bride is the daughter of Scott and Robbie Rehme of Hilliard. She is employed with First Florida Credit Union in Jacksonville.

The groom is the son of Donna Bilger-Manken of Fernandina Beach and the late Steve Bilger. He is employed with St. John's Boat Company.

Serving as bridesmaids were: Shawna Rehme, Alisha Beasley, Belinda Collins and Bethan McGowan. Serving as flower girls were: Aurora, Skyla and Serenity Rehme. Serving as groomsmen were: TJ Beasley, Cliff Swails, Erik Peterson and Jonathan Rehme. Serving as ringbearer was Noah Nichols.

Following a honeymoon trip to Utah, the couple is residing in Hilliard.

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HMS Volleyball A Team Undefeated



Congratulations to the Hilliard Middle School A Team who defeated Fernandina Beach Middle School to become County Champions. The ladies were undefeated all season!

HMS A Team players are: Audrey Vennard, Jayden Green, Katherine Dillard, Reah Saunders, Reagan Hern, Chloe Dennis, Justice Alderman, Emma Thompson, Kelsey Jackson, Audrey Shippy and Natalee Bennett. The coach for the team is Coach Kearsten Holley!

West Nassau High School Boys Swim Team County Champs!



The West Nassau High School Boys Swim Team recently won the County Champs. The boys medaled in all 3 relays and got a new school record in the 400 Freestyle Relay! Congratulations!

The swimmers are: Trevor Singley, Brody Singley, Nick Wentworth, Carter Peeples, Brody Rhoads, Mason Haugh, Asher Miller and Charles Ryan. The swim coaches are Jason and Jenny Singley.

First Responders Appreciation Day
Monday, October 28 • 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Bert Norman's Plumbing
850530 US HWY 17 • Yulee
All Nassau County First Responders are invited to enjoy a meal from the Hot Dog House sponsored by Bert Norman's Plumbing. All responders are welcome, on duty or off duty!

Gun Raffle to Benefit the Pinky Promise Foundation



Hagan Ace Hardware of Callahan is currently holding a gun raffle that a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Pinky Promise Foundation Inc. in Callahan. The raffle includes three different guns: Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus, 12GA, 26"; a Kimber Rose Gold Ultra II 45ACP; and a Savage Arms Impulse Big Game 6.5 Creedmoor 22" BBL 4RD Woodland.

Tickets are $10 each and you may purchase tickets for the particular gun you want. There are a limited number of tickets for each firearm represented. Available at Hagan Ace in Callahan only, now through October 31.

For a complete list of raffle rules and guidelines, visit Hagan Ace Hardware in Callahan.

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35th Annual Dayspring Village
SECRET SANTA
WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Dayspring Village is seeking volunteers to help share the gift of Christmas with the mentally ill residents. Often the holidays are the toughest time of the year for the mentally ill and each year the gift of the giver makes a life changing impact on the lives of these individuals.

How to get Involved:

1. Contact Jenna D., Facility Manager at 904-874-5261 or email her at jenna@dayspringvillage.org.
2. You will be assigned a resident and their 'wishes'.
3. Have your gift wrapped and back to the facility by December 20th.
4. Baking – If you like to bake we would love to have you sponsor the evening snack for the residents!
5. Music – If you have a musical talent you would like to share we invite you to come and perform!

Dayspring Village is a state licensed limited mental health assisted living facility that is focused on serving the needs of adults with schizophrenia. If you would like to learn more or we can be of any assistance, please contact Douglas D. Adkins, Administrator at 904-583-0134-cell or doug@dayspring.health – Please consider becoming a volunteer this Christmas season, the gift you make in the life of others will truly change lives around you.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Call today! 904-874-5261

www.dayspringvillage.org

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AUCTION

ABSOLUTE PUBLIC LIVE AUCTION. NO RESERVE! Friday, October 25 from 12 – 3:30 p.m.; and Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m.; Preview 8 a.m. ROLPH'S AUCTION DEPOT, Surplus Auction at the downtown FSCJ Campus, 11 West State St., Jacksonville. Link to auction: https://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/3971763.html. Items include 4 Lincoln Tig Welders 225, pallet of Welding Wire, 3 Passenger Vans 2006, 2004 Chevy Pickup Truck, 2006 Ford Passenger Van e350, 2010 Ford F150, 2011 Chevy Impala Car, 2007 GMC 2500 Savana extended Sharrod Van, Lycoming Aircraft Engines, 25 foot heavy duty Equipment Trailer, John Deere zero turn 60" cut Lawnmower z830a Z-track, utility trailer, Lawn trailer, 6 large DJI Drones in fitted cases, Kawai Baby Grand Piano, dental chairs, Zeiss eye doctors Optometrist equipment, Zeiss Visucam, 2 Optimus milling drilling machine bf20 Vireo, 4 Optimus metal lathes, 40 foot extension ladder, Bressler 23cIII PHOTO Enlargers, Hirane tack welder, Hunter brake machine, GNC Shark Router, microscopes, Cisco systems telepresence, smart board, hospital beds, leaf vacuum, compact 106 Raspatory case, driving simulator, Leica with stand, air conditioners, chairs, desks, file cabinets, book shelves, air purifiers, safe, weightlifting equip, janitorial equip, generator, 6 foot wood box trunk hinged on wheels, and much more! Everything sold as-is, with a 10 % BUYER PREMIUM for cash; and 14% for credit cards. Sales tax will be collected unless you have a sale tax exemption cert. For more information, call 904-993-8679. 102424

YARD SALES

INSIDE GARAGE SALE! In the garage at 54320 Armstrong Rd., Callahan. **THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY**, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Budweiser mugs, log chains, old dishes and what-nots, model cars, men's and women's clothing, yard tools and much more!

FRIDAY, 8 a.m. till 5 p.m.; **SATURDAY**, 8 a.m. till Noon; 37193 Southern Glen Way, off Pine St., Hilliard. For all you parents STAND UP and cheer, another great yard sale is finally here. We have the lowest prices you can ask around, spreading enormous savings all over town. So, bring your neighbor, sister, and your mother, too, this super-hot sale is here for you!

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, after 3 p.m.; **SATURDAY**, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., 43147 Keene Cemetery Rd., Callahan. Lots of stuff! Men's clothing, jeans, shirts & shoes, all new; fishing & hunting equipment and attire; and Bass boats. Lots of new items! 904-879-9226.

MULTI-FAMILY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8 a.m. until? 27027 W. 7th Ave., Hilliard. Little bit of everything, various tools & household, men's, women's & children's clothing.

SATURDAY, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 6171 River Road, Hilliard. Great prices! NEW Items! Women's clothing, various sizes including women's business attire, beautiful wedding dress (size 10), NEW bathroom fixtures, bathtub surround, tile, exterior stone, TVs, housewares and so much more!

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THE TOWN OF HILLIARD is seeking a highly motivated individual for a Public Works position. Current Driver License and High School Diploma / equivalent are required. Job description includes: experience in water & sewer utility work, operating excavators, backhoes, dump trucks and other various types of equipment. Must be willing to rotate on-call weekends and work after hours as needed. CDL is strongly preferred. Pay ranges from $18.89 - $28.34 per hour depending on experience. The Town of Hilliard is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace. Post-offer physical required. Applications may be picked up at Town Hall located at 15859 West County Road 108, Hilliard, Florida from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or can be printed from our website: www.townofhilliard.com and will be accepted until the position is filled.

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OBITUARIES

Kermit Virgil Bluhm



Kermit Virgil Bluhm, 78, of Callahan, passed away October 14, 2024, at home following a courageous fight with small cell lung cancer. He was born August 22, 1946 in Bennet, Nebraska to the late Marvin and Mary Bluhm. Kermit retired from the United States Navy with 27 years of service as a Senior Chief Petty Officer. During his service, Kermit received Good Conduct Awards, a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with Three Bronze Stars, Battle "E" Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Presidential Certificate.

Kermit loved animals, fishing, hunting and watching the weather channel. He had a great sense of humor, an infectious laugh, was a good neighbor and friend to all. Kermit is preceded in death by his loving wife of 41 years, Glenda Bluhm; and sisters Wilma Barnett and Linda Hamilton. Rest in peace Virgil. You will always be in our hearts.

Kermit leaves behind a loving family including daughters Julie (Mike) Schwan and Dana (Mitchell) Wright; grandchildren, Mithcell Wright, Erin (Shaun) Bradham, Ryan O'Keefe, Diane (Matt) La Von, David (Layci) Wright and Tom (Zoe) Schwan; great-grandchildren, Christopher Bradham, Haleigh Smyth, Leevi Wright, Aubreigh Smyth, Leo Schwan, Isaac Schwan, Luisa La Von and Lily Schwan; brother Sam Bluhm; sister Shirley Roberts (Doug Hulbert); a host of nephews, nieces, and friends.

A celebration of life will be held privately by his family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Kermit's honor to Community Hospice & Palliative Care, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32257.

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

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

Christine Rochele Bramel



Chrissie Bramel, 57, passed away Thursday October 10, 2024. She was born February 15, 1967, in Columbus, Ohio, to John and Barbara (Edmondson) Bramel. She has lived in Callahan for the last 12 years. She attended Andrew Jackson High School. Chrissie is preceded in death by her parents Barbara and John Bramel, Sr.; brother John Bramel, Jr.; and sister Cheryl Williams.

Chrissie was well known in her community and loved by all. She was caring, loving, sharing and had a funny personality. She loved the Florida Gators. Many hearts are broken and incomplete by her sudden passing. Chrissie will never be forgotten and will always be loved and missed dearly.

Survivors include her fiancée Al Blair; children Christopher Williams and Kaylee Williams; sisters Cindy Bramel (Lacretia) and Cathy Posey; chosen sister Heather Johnson: granddaughter Kylie Hornback; her children's father Lorn Williams; best friend close enough to be family, Barbara Blount; and a host of other relatives and friends.

A celebration of life service was held Thursday, October 17 in the chapel of Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Jacksonville. The family received friends prior to the service.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Cedar Bay Funeral Home.

Blake William Bullard



Mr. Blake William Bullard, 42, a lifelong Bryceville resident, passed away Sunday, October 13, 2024. Mr. Bullard was a 2001 Baldwin Senior High School graduate and was then employed by CSX Railroad for many years. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. His sense of humor always brought a smile and a laugh to those around him as he loved talking and joking around with everyone. He was a devoted father whose children were the loves of his life.

He is survived by his daughter Paisley Diane Bullard of Starke; parents Fred and Diane Bullard of Bryceville; and brother Clay Alan Bullard, of Bryceville. He was preceded in death by his son Brayden William Bullard; and grandparents Shannon Davis, Sarah and Si Pittman; and F.M. and Marion Bullard.

The family received friends Thursday, October 17 in the chapel of Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin. A graveside funeral service was held Friday, October 18 at Brandy Branch Baptist Church Cemetery, Bryceville, with Brother Brian Keen officiating.

Arrangements by Warren Funeral Services of Baldwin.

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

Cheryl Albertie Cisero



Cheryl Annette (Che Che) Albertie Cisero, 65, of Duncanville, Texas, passed away September 30, 2024. She was born October 10, 1958 to Clifford and Blanche Albertie in Jacksonville. She was the sixth child of nine children. Cheryl received Christ at a young age. She was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church. She was a 1976 graduate of Hilliard High School. Following graduation, she joined the Job Corps in Texas. She retired in 2016 from a career with the Internal Revenue Service, following 26 plus years of dedicated service. Cheryl was later joined together in Holy Matrimony to Bennie Cisero, who remained by her side until her transition. She was preceded in death her parents; and two brothers Ray Albertie and Melvin Albertie.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband Benny Cisero; sons Desmond Johnson; two grandchildren Dylan and Bentley; siblings Clifford Albertie, Jr., Earline (Frankie) Reed, Gladys (Ivory) Smiley, Phyllis Melton, Wendy Melton and Karen Melton; three sisters-in-law Piccola Albertie, Marilyn Phelix and Maxine Bohanon; Aunt Earnestine Taylor; and numerous extended family members and

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CHARLES "CHUCK" MCCRACKEN
MAY 26, 1981 – OCTOBER 30, 2021



Three years have come and gone, seems like hours, seems like years. All we know is we wish you were here. What we wouldn't give to see your smile, to give you a hug, we would walk for miles. You meant so much to everyone, your most important title, our son. Also, a father and a friend, a nephew and a cousin, the list doesn't end. Our only comfort is we will see you again.
Love,
Mom & Dad

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A memorial service was held October 12 in Dallas, Texas at Laurel Land Funeral Home Chapel.

Charles Raymond Cowart



Charles Raymond Cowart, 68, of Callahan, passed away peacefully Friday, October 18, 2024, at Community Hospice Center for Caring at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, following a lengthy illness. He was born February 20, 1956, in Fernandina Beach, to the late John Cowart and Elizabeth Fouraker Cowart. Raymond dedicated many years of his life to his career as a drywall finisher, a trade where he was well-respected for his skill and work ethic. He was a man who found great joy in the simpler pleasures of life. Raymond was an avid fisherman, often found near the water with a fishing pole in hand, waiting patiently for his next catch. Beyond his own interests, Raymond cherished the time spent with his family and friends, creating memories that they will hold dear. His absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him. Raymond was preceded in death by his parents; brother Randle Cowart; nephew Donald Cowart; and stepson Joshua Hayes.

Raymond leaves behind his son Corey Cowart; daughter Elizabeth Fletcher; brother Ronald (Phyliss) Cowart; sisters Doris Crosby and Patricia (Calvin) Bell; along with extended family, friends and grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Friday, October 25 at 11 a.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Marty Paparo officiating.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Rev. James R. Drake



Rev. James R. Drake, 92, of Douglas, Georgia, went to be with Jesus June 7, 2024. He graduated from Hilliard High School and retired from Methodist Hospital in Jacksonville where he worked in engineering for 30 years. He was a member and prior pastor of Axson Evangelistic Church in Axson, Georgia, for 14 years. He had a never-ending love for Gaskin Springs Holiness Campgrounds to which he contributed well over 50 years of leadership and service, including serving as president for a few years. He is now in the arms of his savior in perfect peace. He was preceded in death by his parents Rev. James W. Drake and Corrie E. Drake; two sisters Carol Thompson and Joyce Tillman; and three grandchildren Mark Lucas, Melinda Lucas and Matt Lucas.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 69 years, Ruby Lee (Crews) Drake; three daughters Sylvia Diane Thompson, Sandra Brantley and Deborah Walker; son James D. Drake; six grandchildren Michelle Gast, Linda Powers, William Kleinknecht, Diane Kleinknecht, Brandon Jordon and Caleb Drake; 15 great-grandchildren; 13 great-great-grandchildren; his dearest friend Dr. John Hundley; and many loved and cherished relatives and friends. We all loved him dearly and his memory will live on in our hearts forever. *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."* Isaiah 26:3 was his favorite Bible verse.

A funeral service was held June 11 at Axson Evangelistic Church in Axson,with Elder Walt DeLoach and Rev James D. Drake officiating. He was laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery in Hilliard.

Arrangements by Sims Funeral Home, Douglas, Georgia.

Nancy Sue Green



Nancy Sue Green, 80, of Callahan, passed away October 19, 2024, following a lengthy illness. She was born July 4, 1944 in Indiana. She enjoyed going shopping and doing a lot of looking! She married Howard on May 4, 1974 and they recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. She is survived by her husband Howard Green.

Arrangements are pending.

Henry Lawton Sloan



Henry Lawton Sloan, 80, of Hilliard, passed away Thursday, October 17, 2024. He was born November 19, 1943 in Jacksonville, to the late Charles Lawton Sloan and Lucille Katherine Moore Sloan. He proudly served his country in the US Army. In addition to his parents; he is preceded in death by his loving wife Nina Mae Freeman Sloan; brother James Bellows Sloan; and sister Lillian Myona Sloan.

He is survived by his sons Joel (Erin) Sloan and Jimmy Sloan (Dennis Noonan); grandchildren Harley Sloan, Trenten (Alexis) Legg, Courtney (Jeremy) Legg, Seth Boswell, Joshua Noonan-Sloan and Adam Noonan-Sloan; great-grandchildren Paisley, Everly, Natalie and Lilly; and siblings Charlotte Gmuca and Johnny (Lisa) Sloan.

The family received friends Thursday, October 24 at Shepard-Roberson Funeral Home Callahan Chapel. The funeral service will be held Friday, October 25 at 1 p.m. also at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. with Military Honors.

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

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

Obituaries are published free of charge.
Email: news@westsidejournal.net

Wright Family Thank You

The family of Mandy Wright wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to the community for your generosity and love during this difficult time. We appreciate the food, phone calls, cards, flowers, and most of all your presence. The loss of her echoes through each day, but your compassion has been our comfort.

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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.

Sunday, October 13

Roosevelt Sylvester Nelson, Jr., 40, Callahan: Trespassing Structure or Conveyance

Monday, October 14

Richard Curtis Devore, 35, Callahan: Misuse 911 or E911 System; Us 1-Way Communication Device; False Report of Plant Bomb

Mark Hinson Kidd, 65, Callahan: Sale of Methamphetamine

Wednesday, October 16

Laci Marie Casper, 36, Callahan: Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (No Prior Forcible Felony)

Thursday, October 17

Sky Chyenne Barcia, 30, Hilliard: Use 2-Way Communication Device (x 2); Sale of Controlled Substance within 1000 ft. of Church (x 2); Trafficking Methamphetamine over 14 grams (x 2);

Friday, October 18

Ruby Annette Adams, 52, Callahan: 1st Degree Arson; 2nd Degree Arson

Rhett William Augustin, 22, Callahan: Smuggle Contraband Controlled Substance in County Detention Facility; Possession of Methamphetamine; Theft by Employee

Sunday, October 20

Terry Lee Miller, 69, Hilliard: Battery on Person older than 65

Shining a Light on Blood Clot Prevention This October

Douglas Adkins, CEO, Emily's Promise

October marks the 2nd Annual Emily Adkins Blood Clot Awareness Month, a time of reflection and action for my family and so many others who have lost loved ones to this condition. My daughter Emily passed away on October 21, 2022 due to a blood clot, and her memory will forever drive our mission to raise awareness and prevent others from suffering the same fate. Blood clots are a significant public health concern, yet they often go unnoticed until it's too late. About 3 in 4 Florida residents have at least one risk factor for a blood clot or pulmonary embolism, so we cannot overstate the need for heightened awareness and education. This October, we aim once again to shine a light on the steps everyone can take to reduce their risk and potentially save lives.

It's clear that continued education is making a measurable difference. Since July 2023, Floridians' confidence in their ability to identify a blood clot or pulmonary embolism has increased by 5%, while those who can recognize some of the signs of blood clots has risen by 3%. These statistics, while encouraging, also remind us that more work is needed to spread the word that early detection is key to preventing the devastating effects of blood clots. The advancements in awareness are a direct result of ongoing advocacy efforts, including those led by Emily's Promise, the nonprofit organization we founded in our daughter's honor. Our work has led to significant milestones, including the signing of the Emily Adkins Prevention Act by Gov. Ron DeSantis in June 2023. The law mandated the creation of the Florida Blood Clot and Pulmonary Embolism Policy Workgroup (FL BCPEP), which is already taking vital steps to improve detection and treatment strategies statewide.

Additionally, Emily's Promise has now launched a new poster project. This initiative, in memory of Emily, aims to educate health care providers in facilities across Florida about the dangers of venous thromboembolism (VTE), which can include deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE). The posters we created provide crucial information about the signs and symptoms of DVT and PE and offer clear guidelines on when to seek urgent medical consultation. By empowering staff and caregivers with this knowledge, we hope to help prevent unnecessary deaths from blood clots.

However, despite these strides, the work is far from complete. The modest increases in public awareness levels highlight the need for continued advocacy and education. This October and beyond, we urge everyone to take the time to learn about blood clots and to speak with their health care providers about risk factors and prevention strategies. Simply asking your doctor, "What is my blood clot prevention plan?" can help save your life. The loss of a loved one to a blood clot is an often-preventable tragedy, and it is our hope that through ongoing awareness efforts, we can reduce the number of families who must endure this pain. By working together, we can ensure that Emily's legacy lives on through the lives saved thanks to critical knowledge and timely prevention.

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Warriors Celebrate Homecoming Victory



Coach Waylon Cox

The West Nassau High School Warriors enjoyed a beautiful homecoming that was capped off by a 42-12 win over the Halifax Academy Knights. The Warriors got started following a Nate Batrous interception that stopped the Knights first drive. Andi Ataiza was able to finish off the offensive drive with a 4-yard touchdown run, to make the score 7-0. After the Warriors got another stop on defense, Fisher Johnson was able to break through and block the punt to give the Warriors terrific field position. Avery Griffin was able to find the endzone on the next play to bring the score to 14-0.

The Warriors' defense was stifling all night and returned the ball back to the offense quickly. Gaven Carter was able to find the endzone on the next drive to make it 21-0. After a Nash Batrous fumble recovery, Pryce Arnold was able to find Grady Stevens in the corner of the endzone to make it 28-0 at half with the Warriors well in control.

The second half was not as smooth for the Warriors as they had a few turnovers on the offensive side. Eventually, Pryce Arnold was able to connect with Grady Stevens for another touchdown. Arnold was able to hook up with Avery Griffin for the final dagger which brought the score to 42-6. The Knights were able to tack on a late touchdown to make the final 42-12. "It was a great night. Seeing the town and community come out and support the team. We have a great home atmosphere from the fans to Kierson on her horse carrying the spear. West Nassau is a special place," said WN Head Coach Gunnar Cox.

The Warriors were led on the ground by Skyler Freeman who had 13 carries for 104 rushing yards; Andi Ataiza had 7 carries for 69 yards and a touchdown; Gaven Carter and Avery Griffin both added rushing touchdowns. Pryce Arnold was 5 of 10 passing for 95 yards and 3 touchdowns; Avery Griffin had 2 receptions for 51 yards and a touchdown; and Grady Stevens had 2 receptions for 14 yards and 2 touchdowns.

The Warriors' defense was led by Nick Braddock who had 9 total tackles; Garrett Rica and Fisher Johnson both had 8 tackles each; while Nash Batrous had 6 tackles. Stetson Brown and Carter Bailey, each had a sack; and Preston Coker and Nate Batrous both had interceptions.

The Warriors will be back in action at home this Friday night for the last regular season game against the Dixie County Bears. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. Go Warriors!



Flashes Fly by Rams

Coach Matthew Yancey

Garland's big night lifts Hilliard to first win! Entering last Friday night's contest, it had been over year since Hilliard won a football game. Down to just 22 available players, the Flashes overcame an early deficit and injuries to snap an 11-game losing streak and defeat the Interlachen Rams by a score of 54-35.

The night was highlighted by an incredible performance by junior Ethan Garland. Garland was forced into action at quarterback, after starting quarterback Cale Libby was injured during the week. Garland rushed for 225 yards on 20 carries and 3 touchdowns while passing 169 yards and 2 touchdowns. He also recorded three turnovers on defense and caught a 2-point conversion. The effort earned Garland a nomination for the Jacksonville Jaguars High School Player of the week.

Interlachen scored first and held the lead for much of the first half. Both teams scored in the first 24 minutes of the game. Hilliard scored twice in the half's final three minutes to take a 32-21 lead to the half. DJ Alderman, Camuari Bolden and Ethan Garland all found the end zone for the Flashes in the first half.

The third quarter played out much like the first two, as both teams marched up and down the field trading touchdowns. The Rams looked to seize the momentum as they cut the Flashes lead to 40-35 midway through the third quarter. Hilliard looked to respond but a turnover in the Interlachen end zone gave the Rams the ball back with a chance to take the lead.

On the ensuing defensive possession, the momentum swung back in favor of the Flashes as Ethan Garland stepped in front of a Rams receiver for an interception. Three plays later, Garland raced to the end zone to extend the Flashes lead. The Flashes defense finished the game strong forcing two turnovers and holding the Rams scoreless in the final 12 minutes of the game. The game was put away with a sack from senior Blake Ray with 2 minutes left in the game. Hilliard took over and ran the clock out.

DJ Alderman finished the night with 59 yards rushing on five carries while catching 3 passes for another 62 yards and two total touchdowns; and Camuari Bolden had 181 total yards and a touchdown. On the offensive freshman Brock McPherson and sophomore Patrick Holman, both played well starting in new positions. The defense was highlighted by big plays from Jake Crews, Brent Leung and Parks Yake.

The Flashes return to action this Friday night as they travel to Columbia County to face off against the Indians of Fort White for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff!

Go Flashes!

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Scott Mezera
Manager

Hagan ACE Hardware

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