

# WESTSIDE JOURNAL

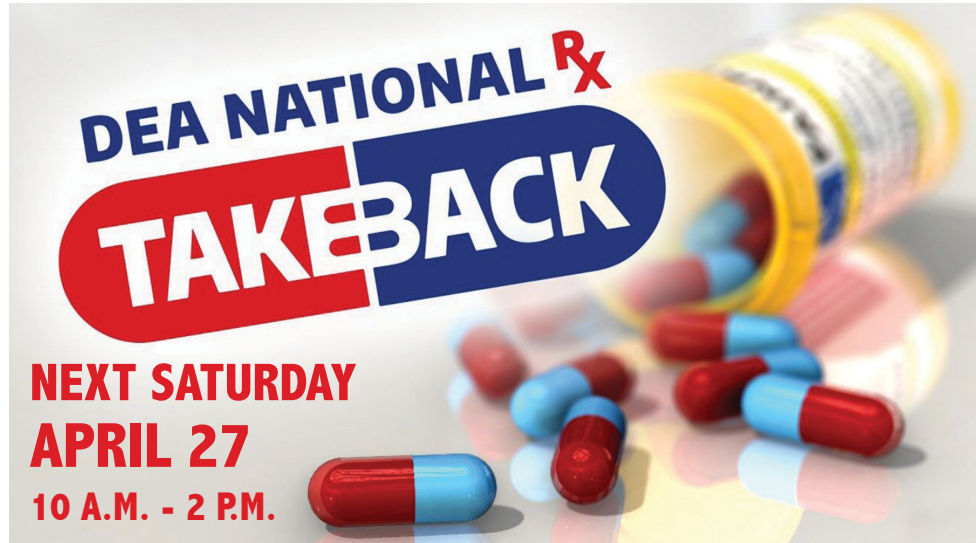


VOLUME XX ISSUE 37

HOMETOWN PEOPLE...HOMETOWN NEWS

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024

“MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, THAT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.” - ROMANS 15:13



**DEA NATIONAL RX  
TAKE BACK**  
NEXT SATURDAY  
**APRIL 27**  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

## DEA National RX Take Back Day: A Positive impact in your community

Elizabeth Nettles

The opioid epidemic continues to sweep our nation with a rise in Fentanyl creating deadly impacts far and wide, and right here in Nassau County. The rate of overdose and overdose related deaths continues to increase causing tragic consequences and loss of life in our county. The importance of bringing awareness to the dangers of substance misuse is critical. Most opioid misuse starts at home by an individual, including children, taking the medication from a family member or friend who was prescribed an opioid or stimulant. This can result in a pattern of addiction and seeking these substances from illegal sources. Over 50% of overdose deaths in Florida are caused by opioids. This type of drug is so addictive and frequently sought after from illegal sources when a prescription runs out or cannot be obtained from the treating physician anymore.

Fentanyl, traditionally used by medical professionals only, is now being used by drug dealers as an additive to make counterfeit or “fake” pills. Visually, they are the standard prescription medications such as Percocet, OxyContin, or Adderall however, they are far more deadly. Fentanyl is one hundred times more potent than Heroin and one hundred

times more deadly. Visually microscopic and unable to detect via taste or smell, 2 MG of Fentanyl can cause a fatal overdose in the average human being.

In an interview with a local mom who was directly impacted by this epidemic, tragically losing her son to fentanyl overdose in 2020, she brought awareness to a game being played by young people including high school age kids at gatherings and parties. The party goers bring whatever pills they have access to, this could be from a parent, grandparent, or even a drug dealer, and it is placed in the middle of table to be taken by anyone at the party. This game is sometimes referred to as “roulette” as they do not know what they are going to get. This is a terrifying reality of the danger impacting our youth and community.

As a community, we can help reduce the risk of substance misuse and accidental overdose by keeping our medicine cabinets cleaned out. This helps keep the possibility of misuse out of the home and out of the community. To help provide the community with a safe way to clean out their unused medications with proper disposal, Community Coalition Alliance is partnering with the DEA to offering four Nassau County medication disposal locations on Saturday, April 27 from

## Railroad Day Festival & Classic Car Show This Saturday

The 19th Annual Railroad Day Festival & Classic Car Show will be held this Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Historic Train Depot, 45383 Dixie Avenue in Callahan. The festival is a one-day family fun event, filled with railroad memorabilia in the Annex, and the rich history of West Nassau County in the Depot. The former railroad bed will be lined with vendors of all kinds: food, crafts, woodworking, jewelry, etc. There will be a Kids’ Zone from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. presented by Joel Pace Piano & Music students, performing on the Depot’s front deck. Children will play hands on music zoo.

A special edition will be also the Celebration of the Nassau County Bicentennial: 1824-2024. Special thanks to the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners and the Nassau County Bicentennial officials for helping us to produce the Nassau 200th History exhibit and for supporting the Railroad Day Festival and our county’s 200th birthday! Also, at 11:30 a.m. the western handicap ramp project will be shared thanks to sponsors FPL, Rayonier and District 5 Commissioner Klynt Farmer.

The Classic Car Show will be held across the street at Cochrane’s Collision Center with numerous Classic Cars and tricked out vehicles for everyone to see. Make sure to vote on your favorite car while you’re looking. Many thanks to the Callahan Cruisers and Cochrane’s Collision



Center for sponsoring the event every year!

There will also be entertainment at the Depot Park Pavilion beginning at 9 a.m. with Buck Lucontro; 9:35 a.m. the Callahan Intermediate School Warrior Steel Band; 10:10 a.m. Megan Stanford; 11:30 Liz and Randall Smith; 12:20 Michael Ward Band; 1:10 p.m. Jessy and Gabby Valerio; 2 p.m. Car Show Winners Announced; 2:35 p.m. Laid Back; and 3:20 p.m. West Nassau Chiefs of Swing Jazz Band.

The West Nassau Historical Society host this event each year as one of their largest fundraisers. It is the mission of the Historical Society to preserve the history of Callahan, Bryceville, Hilliard and all the communities of western Nassau County.

For more information about the West Nassau Historical Society, call 904-879-3406 or visit their website at: [www.wnhsfl.org](http://www.wnhsfl.org). They are always looking for members!

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The westside locations for medication disposal are: Hagan Ace Hardware, Callahan, 450037 SR 200; and Hilliard Pharmacy, 551770 US Highway 1.

We will also be partnering with community resources to distribute FREE Narcan, Deterra, and educational

materials. Narcan is a life-saving nasal spray that works to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, including Fentanyl. Please contact Caitlin Miller with the Community Coalition Alliance, [cmiller@ccafll.org](mailto:cmiller@ccafll.org), for additional resources, training, or education questions.

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## A Word From the Publisher

My goodness, has God truly blessed us these past few weeks with amazing weather? This has been one of the nicest springs we have enjoyed in a while. Normally, here in Florida, we do winter, a day of spring and quickly jump into the 90s. The mornings are so refreshing with the cool air and such a great time to breathe in God's glory and faithfulness for each day. Yes, we have had our share of rain but thankfully no damaging storms. Is it just me or can you also see how much more beautiful the trees are following the rain? They all seem to be stretching out to the heavens to thank God for his rain!

I'm by far, not a national news buff, however, I am somewhat aware of the war going on with Israel. Israel is a powerful country with strong leaders and a fierce military. When they were attacked back in October by Hamas and hostages were taken, Israel has worked hard to attack the terrorists that were responsible for the act of war. In the meantime, now Iran decided to launch an attack on Israel last Saturday evening. If that doesn't show you what kind of country Iran is, you must be super uninformed. For Iran to jump in the battle just shows how evil they are as a communist terrorist country. As the Bible states that Israel is God's chosen people in Deuteronomy 7:6, "For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all."

"Iran blasted Israel with 170 drones and 30 cruise missiles, none of which entered Israeli territory, and 110 ballistic missiles of which a small number reached Israel," said military

spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, in a televised statement (bbc.com). If that doesn't tell you God will protect Israel, nothing will. As we see these attacks it makes us thankful for where we live. But we must remember our country is far from safe at this point in time. We must always be aware of what is going on around us.

What can we do? The most important thing we can do is be sure without a shadow of a doubt about our salvation. Anything can happen at any time. One of the difficult parts about publishing the paper week after week is reading through all the obituaries. Many have lived long lives however many more are middle age and younger. We are not promised tomorrow, which is why your salvation is so important today. Do you know where you will spend eternity? I know when my name is called I will wake up in the arms of Jesus and spend eternity with Him. Hell is a real place of pain and suffering.

We serve an awesome God and He provides for me more than I deserve. I'm thankful for the grace He gives for each day...as I fall short many times. We must continue praying for Israel, our country and our community. No matter what, God is in control and He will win the battle. He continues to wait for more people to accept his gift of salvation before He returns. Once that happens, it's too late. Why not ask Jesus to come into your heart today so you can enjoy all the benefits of salvation and joy with Christ?

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*

## Hilliard Library's Memory Station: Preserving the Past, Pixel by Pixel

Julie Cannavino, NC Library Director

Located in the Hilliard Library lies a treasure trove for the past- the Memory Station. This innovative space is not just about borrowing books; it is about safeguarding precious memories trapped in faded photographs and aging film reels.

The Memory Station serves as a bridge between the analog and digital world. It allows patrons to bring their cherished keepsakes back to life- old photo albums overflowing with forgotten faces, shoeboxes crammed with film canisters from long ago. Using state-of-the-art equipment, you are able to convert these family treasures into a universally accessible format: the USB drive. The brainchild of the Memory Station is the branch librarian at the Hilliard library, Amber Ard. The idea for the memory station came when Ms. Ard had read about a similar program at one of the Jacksonville Public Libraries. Ms. Ard is enthusiastic about this program because, in her words, "It will allow residents of Nassau County to convert their memories without the expense of sending it off to have it done by an outside company."

The Memory Station houses equipment where you can convert your old photos or films and save them to a USB drive. Once the files are saved on your USB drive, you can even email them to yourself so that you can access them on your phone, too! Just keep in mind that while scanning photos only takes a short time, videos will take the same amount of time as footage exists



on the film. This means that if your video is 2 hours long, plan to hang out at the library for 2 hours while your video converts. Don't worry though, we have plenty of entertainment for you while you're here- from free WiFi, to books, a Nintendo Switch, magazines and more. Compatible film types include VHS, VHS-C, 8mm, Hi8, Digital 8, Super 8, 35mm, 110 film and 126 film.

The Nassau County Public Library would like to thank the Friends of the Hilliard Library and the Town of Hilliard for sponsoring the new station. Users must have a Nassau County Public Library Card, and reservations are required to use the Memory Station. When you sign up as a first-time user, library staff will be on hand to orient you to the equipment and how to use it so that you will be able to work independently to convert your memories. Reservations can be made at: [www.nassaureads.com](http://www.nassaureads.com).

For more information on the Memory Station, call (904) 530-6500 option 4 or email: [libraryinfo@nassaucountyfl.com](mailto:libraryinfo@nassaucountyfl.com). We hope to see you soon as you make your favorite family memories easier to access.

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Hilliard First Assembly of God, 551630 US Highway 1, will host a Community Fish Fry, Fri., April 19 from 6 -7:30 p.m. Dinners are \$5/per dinner & include: Fish, Grits, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Bread and Tea.

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

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Dawn West ..... Publisher  
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## Callahan Chooses Davis for Vacant Council Seat

Dawn S. West

The Callahan Town Council met Monday night for their final meeting of April. The first order of business was a presentation from resident Brad Mangold. "I'm here tonight to remind the council and ask for your support for the 5th Annual Memorial Day Rod Run Car & Bike Show to be held Saturday, May 25 at Callahan Methodist Church," said Mangold. "The event will be held from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. We are asking for the council's permission to close Booth Street during that time, as we have done every year. All monies from the event go to the Barnabas Fit Program for families in transition. A portion of the funds, go to the Gear Up for Graduation Program at West Nassau High School. This program provides proper graduation apparel for graduates to wear. Two years ago, we assisted 11 students."

The council approved the closure of Booth Street in that area on May 25.

"We (council) will have to do a resolution at the next meeting and discuss the donation we will provide," said Councilman Ken Bass.

The council advertised the open position on the council due to Mr. David Mellecker leaving. Two residents applied for the seat: Matthew Davis and Jenny Martin.

Town Attorney Reba Pearce advised the town persons that this was an open meeting and one could leave while the other spoke if they wanted to.

Both applicants agreed to stay.

The first applicant was Matthew Davis, who is a former Mayor of Callahan from August 2020 to November 2022. "I'm obviously here about the vacant seat. I've been here before and it's good to see you all. I just feel like I have so much to offer the town. I want Callahan to stay like it is but I want us to grow together. I think we need to come together with plans for traffic and growth as it continues to get worse," said Davis.

The other applicant was Jenny Shrouder Martin. "I am 40 years old and have lived in Callahan all my life. For me, I want to be a part of the community I live in and grew up in. I want to be very involved in the culture

of Callahan. Knowledge, I have it and am aware of how things are changing here. I want to start to work now in making our town a better town and growing together with sustainability. I want to conserve who we are now as a town. We're (Callahan) having real problems. At my age, I'm ready to be a working part of my community. I'm proud of what's been done and looking forward to what I'd like to provide to our town."

Following the two presentations, Councilwoman Janet Shaw made a motion to approve Matthew Davis. Following the second, Shaw continued her thoughts. "I'm very impressed with Jenny's presentation but I just feel like Matt has been here before and he knows the zoning codes and more," said Shaw.

"Jenny I love your passion for our town. Your presentation was real," said Councilwoman Ashton Vargas. "However, I agree with Councilwoman Shaw about Matt's knowledge. This seat is only good through November. I hope that you will pick up an election packet and consider running for a seat."

The council voted 3-0 for Matthew Davis to have the vacant council seat, as Councilwoman Jacquelyn Fleming was absent.

Town Clerk Shawna Gugliuzza advised both Davis and Martin to pick up election packets, as they are to be returned by July to run in the upcoming election.

In closing comments, Mayor Randy Knagge advised the council that he had attended the 90th birthday of Mr. Thomas Blue, Sr. Saturday night and did a proclamation in his honor. He also reminded the council that the National Day of Prayer service would be held Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Ewing Park.

Town Manager Mike Williams advised the council that a few residents that live on Oak Trail asked him about traffic going fast through their neighborhood. They asked if the speed limit can be moved from 25mph to 15mph or at least 20mph. This item will be on the next meeting's agenda.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m.

## JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

As the political campaigning revs up, we who are listening are going to hear a little bit of everything. There will be promises made by politicians that even they know are not achievable. They will promise all sorts of free programs and incentives to win votes, because they know what people want to hear. It would behoove us all to look past the sugar-coating and the vision of utopia they portray in their campaign and keep in mind they cannot give you anything without using your money. It is sort of like buying your own birthday present then giving it to someone else to wrap it and then give it back to you on your birthdate.

This is copied by an unknown source, "A politician dies instead of going straight to Heaven or Hell, a spirit appears to him and says he gets to choose whether he goes to Heaven or Hell. The politician replies that of course he wants to go to Heaven. The spirit tells him that before he chooses, he has to visit both places so each one will get a fair chance. First, they visit Heaven. It looks fairly nice, big fluffy clouds, angels singing and playing harps, everyone seeming to enjoy

themselves. The politician is pleased but a bit underwhelmed. Hell on the other hand is magnificent. It's the most beautiful place the politician has ever seen, and everyone there is having the time of their lives. Beautiful garden, it makes Heaven look dull and boring in comparison. I can't believe I'm saying this, says the politician, but I think I'd rather go to Hell. Very well says the spirit. Turn around, when the politician turns around, though Hell appears to be completely different than it had been less than a minute ago. All of the attractions are gone. Everything is on fire and the people are screaming in agony. I don't understand, cried the politician. This isn't what you showed me before. Well, that was the campaign, now you have voted."

As sad as it is, this is a great analogy of not only campaigns but life in general. Don't be fooled by politicians or the world. Do your own research on both political matters and life matters. In life, you can be strolling down a path of roses and what you think is fun and care-free, but you better see where the path ends. It could be just Hell.

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

### In the Kitchen... Baked BBQ Chicken Tenders

1 pound chicken tenders  
 1 1/2 tablespoons Asian-flavored barbeque seasoning (such as Savory Spice® Asian Delight BBQ Rub)  
 1/3 cup barbeque sauce (such as Sweet Baby Ray's® Hickory & Brown Sugar)  
 1 tablespoon caramel sauce

Preheat the oven to 375°. Spray an 8x8-inch casserole dish with cooking spray. Stir together barbeque sauce, barbeque seasoning, and caramel sauce in a shallow dish until combined. Reserve 2 tablespoons mixture for basting. Dip each chicken tender into barbeque sauce mixture; coat thoroughly. Place in the prepared casserole dish. Bake until chicken is no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, about 25 minutes. Baste with reserved sauce and bake 5 minutes more. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165°.



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Pastor Adam Pierce, Liberty Baptist Church, Callahan



As the old adage goes, "The best things in life are free." Being the realist that I am... I could argue that free isn't really free in most cases. I have always said, "There is no such thing as a free dog." I also understand that an education that is "free" is costing someone something, contrary to the popular opinion of the current socialist movement. Having served in the U.S. military, I clearly understand that Freedom isn't free.

So, what really is free? If the best things in life are free, what is the best free thing? Well, the Scripture says that "...all things that pertain to life and godliness..." (2 Peter 1:3) can be found in the knowledge of Him. And there is no better way to know God than to read the words that He gave to us.

When you read Romans Chapter 5 in the Bible, you will find what I believe to be the best, truly free thing that man could ever receive. God calls it a "free gift." He gives us this gift by His grace. Meaning, we could not and did not earn this free gift. Grace also means that we did not deserve the gift, because of our offenses (sin) toward God. His word tells us that this free gift comes only by one man, Jesus Christ, and that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ He atoned our offenses. We have been justified by His blood because of the grace of God.

So, what is the free part you might ask? God gave us what only He could and He gave it freely, and that is the gift of righteousness. To be made righteous by God is to be whole, cleansed, perfect and complete spiritually speaking. Romans 5 describes the free gift of righteousness given to all men unto the justification of life... eternal life.

I cannot think of anything more free, than the gift that God gives to all men. It is truly free because He already gave His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross at Calvary to then raise Him from the dead so that we would never have to know death. We never have to know death because we have been made righteous if we have called upon the name of the Lord by faith. As it turns out... the best thing in life is free!

## Upcoming Passover Seder at Callahan Methodist Church

On Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m., Callahan Methodist Church invites the community to join in a special Passover Seder led by Pastor Bodie Riddle. This event promises an afternoon of spiritual enrichment, fellowship and celebration, as attendees explore the deep connections between the Passover Seder and the communion observed in our Christian faith.

The Passover Seder, a significant event in Jewish tradition, symbolizes the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. At Callahan Methodist Church, this is not just a celebration, but a learning experience. Participants will have the unique opportunity to understand the Seder's symbolic rituals and reflect on its relevance to the Christian practice of communion. "We're excited to host this meaningful event," said Pastor Bodie Riddle. "The

Passover Seder is a beautiful expression of faith and heritage and it holds profound parallels to the Christian understanding of communion."

RSVP is required for this event because there are only 20 seats left available. Admission is \$15 for adults, while children can attend for free. The evening will feature delicious food, uplifting singing, joyful dancing, engaging kids' games, and, above all, wonderful fellowship. We warmly invite everyone to participate in this special occasion. It's about deepening our understanding of scripture and strengthening our bonds as a community. Let's come together to celebrate the rich tapestry of our faith traditions at Callahan Methodist Church.

To RSVP and more information, please contact Pastor Bodie Riddle or Sue Driscoll at (904) 879-3877.

## Life Care 'Senior Prom' Needs Your Help!

The Life Care Center of Hilliard is needing help from our community! Life Care is teaming up with the West Nassau High School Leadership Class to put on a 'Senior Prom' for the Life Care residents. They need your help with ladies' dresses and men's blazer donations. Please remember, these are elderly men and women at Life Care of all sizes. These items can be dropped off now through Wednesday, May 1, at the Life Care Center of Hilliard, 3756 W. 3rd Street, Hilliard; or the Westside Journal office, 450034 SR 200, Callahan.

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## CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Episcopal Church, located across from Hilliard Town Hall, will be selling Spaghetti Dinners Friday, April 19 from 5-7 p.m. for \$8 each.

North Hilliard Baptist Church, 552823 US HWY1, Daughters of God Meeting on April 20th from 12pm - 2pm in our fellowship hall. Prayer, fellowship, and lunch. Men's Prayer Meeting at 6 p.m.

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## NCS D Receives Grant for Welding Technology Program

Another career training program will soon be available for Nassau County's students: Welding Technology! The Nassau County School District was recently honored to receive \$506,500 in funding through the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant. Funding will provide comprehensive welding technology curriculum that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience needed to thrive in today's competitive job market. State-of-the-art welding labs, equipped with the latest tools and equipment, will provide students with a dynamic learning environment where they learn various welding techniques and technologies.

Nassau County School District's welding technology program will not only focus on technical proficiency but also emphasize essential skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking, ensuring that students are well-rounded and prepared to excel in the workforce. This pre-apprenticeship will prepare students to pursue successful careers in industries such as manufacturing, construction, aerospace, and automotive.

"We're excited to provide yet another opportunity for our students to receive the training and skills necessary to enter the workforce in Nassau County," said NCS D Superintendent Kathy Burns.

## 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 Sessions: Tuesday, April 23 & Tuesday, April 30**

We need you to volunteer to serve on our Jury today! Stay in touch by phone or emails! 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. 3 Hours Community Service for each Court Session!

We are always seeking new students to serve as Attorney's in Court. Anyone wishing to learn and serve in this position, just serve on the jury and speak to the coordinator about joining the team!

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.

## KEENE FAMILY REUNION

The Keene family reunion will be held Saturday, April 27 at Hal Keene's home, 282085 Lake Hampton Road, Hilliard, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Don't forget to bring your favorite food, dessert, and drinks. Call Elizabeth Keene Phillips at (904) 707-9832, (904) 879-0870.



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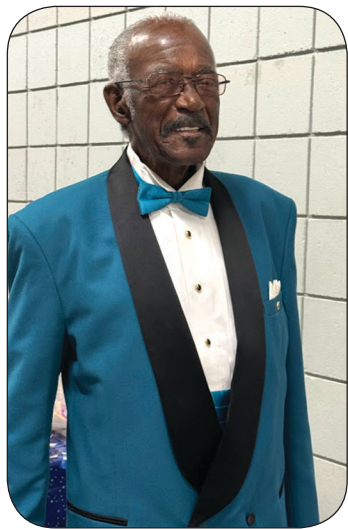
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# New Beginnings and Milestones



## Thomas A. Blue, Jr. Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Thomas A. Blue, Jr., lifelong Callahan resident, celebrated his 90th birthday April 13. Mr. Blue was born April 13, 1934 in Webster, Florida. Following graduation from high school, he attended and graduated from college with a Bachelor Degree in Physical Education and later continued his education to receive his Master Degree. He is a US Army Veteran. Mr. Blue worked as an educator in Nassau County for 38 years as teacher and Assistant Principal at Fernandina Beach Middle School. He is a founding member of the Callahan City Wide Male Chorus; and

continues to be a faithful member of Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, where he also teaches a men's Sunday school class and serves as a deacon. Mr. Blue has been a mentor and friend to many people.

Mr. Blue celebrated his special milestone with a huge party held in his honor, Saturday night, with lots of family, friends and students, joining in the celebration. He was honored to have Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge present a proclamation in honor of his 90th birthday, proclaiming April 13, 2024 Thomas A. Blue, Sr. Day in Callahan. He also had members of his Fraternity to attend the special event.

He has seven children Dewaine, Lisa, Tyler, Terrell, Todd, Tyrone and Travis; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a mentor and role model for countless more! Congratulations Mr. Blue!

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## Mr. and Mrs. Albert Anderson to Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Albert and Sandra (Taylor) Anderson, of Callahan, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary April 20. They were married April 20, 1974 at Dinsmore Baptist Church in Jacksonville by Reverend J.W. Wynn.

Albert retired from JEA as a Substation Technician. Sandra is a Registered Nurse for Kenneth W. Jones, MD, with Ascension St. Vincent's General Surgery for almost 30 years. They are active members of

Callahan First Baptist Church.

They will celebrate their special milestone with family and friends! Although they have no children of their own, they have been blessed with many nieces and nephews that treat them as special parents!



## Mr. and Mrs. Brady Griffis



Brandi McNally and Brady Griffis were united in marriage March 14, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in Fernandina Beach.

The bride is the daughter of Tim Weintraut and Lori McDonald of Jacksonville. She is employed with FedEx Logistics.

The groom is the son of Dwayne and Kim Griffis of Callahan. He is employed with Anheuser-Busch in Jacksonville.

Following a honeymoon trip to the Florida Keys, the couple is residing in Bryceville.

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# Hilliard High School Signs Three



Braydon Holley

Monday morning, three Hilliard seniors signed their commitment to further their education and athletic careers at the next level. Running back Braydon Holley will pursue a Business Management degree at Bluefield University in Bluefield, Virginia where he will play football for the Rams. Holley, who averaged over 100 rushing yards per game this season for the Flashes is a force to be reckoned with on the field. He has led the Flashes' running game for the past two seasons with well over 1,000 all purpose yards each season. Braydon's proud parents are Brenton and Julie Holley of Hilliard.

Wide Receiver Nathanael Vroman will continue his education at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Vroman also plans to pursue a degree in Business. Vroman led the Flashes with 27 receptions this season averaging 42 yards per game. Nathanael's proud parents are Darren and Jennifer Vroman of Hilliard.



Nathanael Vroman

Senior Nolan McKelvy wrestled with Fernandina Beach High School this year, as Hilliard doesn't have a wrestling team. He signed to wrestle at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, Kentucky to

pursue a career in Agriculture. Last year, McKelvy placed 4th in the state in wrestling. This year in the 175 weight class, McKelvy was both the District Champion and Regional Champion and finished 5th in the State Competition. Nolan's proud parents are Shaun and Terisia McKelvy of Callahan.

Congratulations and best wishes to each of these student athletes!



Nolan McKelvy

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**KINGS FERRY COMMUNITY YARD SALE!** Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., northeast of Hilliard off CR 108: Kings Ferry Road, Haddock Road, Middle Road, Lessie Road, etc.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 10815 Ford Road, Bryceville. Smoker grill, tools Ninja Foodi SL Pro Air Oven, Baker's rack with wine bottle holders, hunting items and many more household items!

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VFW Post 10095 **YARD SALE!** Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., located across from the Hilliard Airpark. \$5 Bag Day! New donations. Help support your Veterans!

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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.*

### Wednesday, April 3

Stanley Joseph Dickerson, 48, Hilliard: Possession of Methamphetamine; Trespass on Real Property

### Monday, April 8

Alexander Michael Lewis, 35, Callahan: Possession of Weapon by Convicted Felon; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (production); Possession of Schedule 1-5 Substance); Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon

Jasmine Chanelle Muhammad, 33, Hilliard: Battery Touch or Strike

### Tuesday, April 9

Travis Russell Hill, 44, Bryceville: Failure to Appear; Failure to Appear Felony

Daniel Ray Webb, Jr., 45, Callahan: Failure to Appear

### Wednesday, April 10

Jesse Michael Kalinski, 43, Callahan: Failure to Appear

### Sunday, April 14

Wynter Leanne Gosnell, 23, Hilliard: Possession of Marijuana less than 20 grams; Possession Schedule 1-5 Substance; Dealing in Stolen Property; Possession of Motor Vehicle with Altered VIN; Grand Theft of Motor Vehicle

## CLASS REUNION

### West Nassau High School Class of 1978

WNHS Class of 1978 Reunion, 45+1 (46) years, will be held Saturday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Walter Junior Boatright County Building in Callahan. The cost is \$20 per person. Please contact Ellen Froitzheim Monds at 904-510-2124 for more information.

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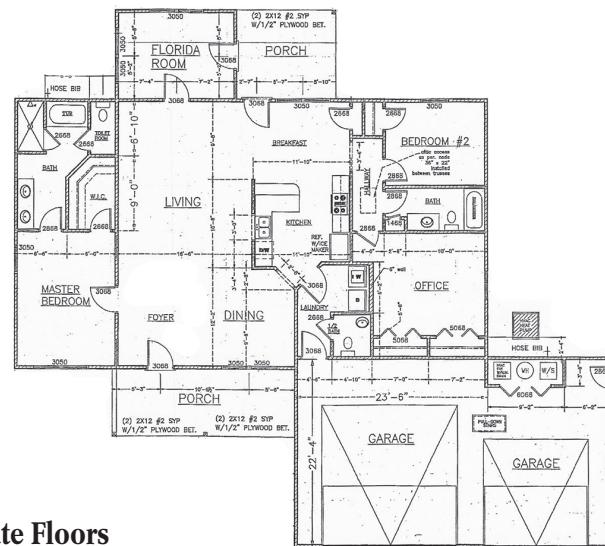
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**JANELLE IRENE BAKER**



Janelle Irene Baker, of Hilliard, ascended to her heavenly home Friday, March 29, 2024. She was born December 16, 1949 in Niagara Falls, New York, to Harry and Diane (Lehman) Brown. Janelle was married to John Baker. She has two sons Darien and Wesley, from a previous marriage. She was a devoted Christian who loved her Lord and family. She was a truck driver; then worked at Head Start in Callahan; and at JTA as a bus driver.

She is survived by her children Darien Frank Smith and Wesley Ryan Smith; husband John Baker; grandchildren Darien Frank Smith, Jr., Haley (Joseph Saylor), Wesley Ryan Smith, II, Christian Michael Smith and Abigail Smith; siblings Patsy Brown, Christopher Lee (Kathy) Brown, Donna B. Sapp, John Raines, Matthew (Rhonda) Brown, Cheryl A. Betts and Lynette (Teddy) Modlin; and nieces and nephews Kimberly Brown Ralich, Stefanie Brown, Steven (Buddy) Paul Brown, Alex (Anastasia) Brown, Rebecca Brown, Reg Lewis, Carrol Driggers, Morgan Betts, Thomas Modlin and Michelle (Blaine) Shine; and great-nieces and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; grandchild Lacey Smith; siblings Steve Brown and Judy Raines; and brother-in-law Tommy Sapp.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Shirley D. Brown Cemetery, 2491 Ruby Drive, Hilliard, with Pastor Benjie Loyd officiating.

**JOHN EDWARD BROWARD**



John Edward Broward, 87, of Callahan, passed away April 11, 2024, with his family by his side. He was born August 20, 1936 to the late Montgomery Broward and Ella Mae Phillips Broward

# OBITUARIES

in Jacksonville. Until the age of 80, John had the blessing of being born and raised on his family's property. He was a proud member of Callahan Church of Christ. John and the love of his life, Gwen, wed on July 11, 1964, and were happily married for 59 years. Together they shared two children, Tamara and Theron. John retired from JEA and W.W. Gay as a Project Manager. He enjoyed canning, was a master gardener volunteer, master food volunteer, and was adamant about keeping a journal and watching the weather. Above all, John adored his family and loved spending time with them. He was a loving husband, father, brother and grandfather, who will be missed dearly. John was preceded in death by his parents; wife Gwendolyn Broward; brothers Charles Broward and Tommy Broward; sister Agnes Batten; and granddaughter Laura Caroline Dinkins.

John is survived by his children Tamara (David) Dinkins and Theron Broward; brother Curtis (Bonnie) Terrell; grandchildren Michael (Chelsie) Dinkins, Jonathan (Alyssa) Dinkins and Ella Dinkins; and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral service for John will be held Tuesday, April 16 at 11 a.m. at Callahan Church of Christ with Bro. Bill Leonard officiating. The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, donations, in John's honor, can be made to the Callahan Church of Christ, 45137 S. Mickler Street, Callahan, FL 32011; or to Haven Hospice, www.beyourhaven.org/donate.

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

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

**BETTY CARTER**



Betty Carter, 79, of Hilliard, went to be with the Lord March 6, 2024, at Baptist South Hospice in Jacksonville. She was an avid reader and enjoyed reading a wide variety of books from A to Z, but her favorite was her Bible. After she finished reading her books, she would donate them to patients undergoing chemo treatments. She herself went through chemo treatments and would be sitting for many hours and the books would help pass the time. She loved numbers and spent her life working in accounting with Merita Bakeries, Durr Medical, PSS and McKesson. So many of her co-workers were like family to her. She was very creative when it came to costumes for special events/seasons and enjoyed putting them together and dressing up.

She especially looked forward every year to going on vacation to the beach with her mother Vera and sisters Mary Jo and Raye and her niece Trish. She loved the beach and called it "her happy place." Her family was very important to her. She had a heart of gold and everyone who met her loved her. She was always nearby if anyone needed help and never asked for anything in return. If you needed money, she would give you her last dollar, if you needed someone to talk to, she would listen forever...if you needed help with a recipe, she would help you through it. The list just goes on for all the good things she did and I'm sure she has many gems in her crown. She left her family and friends with many years of happy memories that we will cherish for as long as we shall live!

Betty was preceded in death by her husband Robert "Bob" Carter; daughter Cindy Matthews; son Richard Young; and grandchildren Ian Klinedinst and Jessica Martin.

Survivors include her daughters Sonya (Clint) Parker and Susie Bost (Keith Klinedinst); grandchildren Amanda Parker, Camela Young, Chuckie Matthews, Samantha Young and Gage Young; seven great-grandchildren; and sisters Mary Jo McGivney and Raye Anderson.

A celebration of life service for Betty will be held Saturday, April 20 at 12 p.m. at Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home, 11801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville.

**MARY ELLEN DAMPIER**



Mary Ellen Dampier, 81, of Callahan, passed away Friday, April 12, 2024. She was born July 11, 1942 in Valdosta, Georgia to Sam Hotchkiss and Fern Fry. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her brother Caron Hotchkiss. Mary Ellen Hotchkiss Dampier, known to most as "Mrs. Mary," "Granny," or "GeeGee," loved children more than anything else. She spent her life raising, nurturing, and caring for any child that needed her. The children in her life and her love for them remain as her legacy.

Mary Ellen is survived by the love of her life, her husband, Lathad Dampier. They met when Mary Ellen was 16 years old, and lived a full, and happy life of raising children, riding motorcycles, camping, travel, beaches, snow, and church activities. Mary Ellen was a devout Baptist since an early age and resides in Heaven today.

Mary Ellen is also survived by her three Dampier sons, Michael Lathad, Dwight Timothy and Gordon Scott. Her sons never lacked for anything, and she lived to take them on exciting vacations every year. Mama kept her sons connected to their extended family, and the time spent at Granny Fern's, Uddie's, Hotchkiss Farms, and Memaw & Papa's were such treasured events in their lives. One memory that stands out is the first time she was able to take them to see real snow, one of her most loved spectacles in nature. Mary Ellen was a constant fixture at any school or sporting event and was fiercely protective of her boys.

Though Mary Ellen loved being a mother, later in life her favorite role was that as a grandparent. She treasured her time with her grandchildren and loved being their Granny or GeeGee. Her love for Timothy, Joshua, Matthew, Kayla, Brandy and Ariel, knew no bounds. Numerous great-grandchildren followed, Trevor, Ryder, Tucker, Blakely, Jaxon, Emery, Camden, Jase, Makayla, Harley, and Ivy. GeeGee always had enough love and time for every one of them. So many children from so many different families gained a loving granny for themselves when they met Mary Ellen.

Mama had a soft spot for her furry friends, treating each and every one like the valuable family member they were. Her sons grew up around the family dogs and they were a large part of their childhood. Some notable ones were Lightning,

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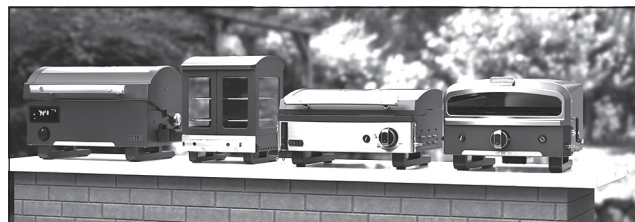


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Mary Ellen and her friends were always visible at church, sporting, and school events. There are too many to name and all meant so much to her. Mary Ellen was a homemaker, always there for her sons and making sure her devoted husband, Thad, had what he needed to work and support their family. School and sporting events occupied so much of her time. Eventually, she was passionate about her job at a daycare center. Mama was extremely smart and breezed through all her certifications, although most of her paychecks were spent by her on the kids she had at the daycare. She truly loved children the most. While raising her boys, Mary Ellen was an active member of Biltmore Baptist Church. Later in life, there were other churches she attended, but she was always a devoted Christian, available to pray for everyone who needed it or asked for it. When her sons traveled, or had something important coming up, they knew Mama had them in her prayers. Mary Ellen will always be remembered for her devotion to children and her husband, and the way that she always made time for them. They couldn't have asked for a better wife to Lathad and mother to her sons. She will be missed every day.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Monday, April 22 at Nassau Funeral Home prior to the celebration of life service at 11 a.m. with Pastor Lee Whitaker and Pastor David Harris officiating. Interment will follow at Good Hope Cemetery in Naylor, GA.

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

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

**CYNTHIA JANE GUINN**

Cynthia 'Cindy' Jane Rodgers Guinn, 64, of Hilliard, passed away March 28, 2024. She was born March 9, 1960 in Jacksonville, to Herbert Drexel Rodgers and Inez Lorriane Amores Rodgers. She was a 1978 graduate of West Nassau High School. Cindy enjoyed the outdoors, traveling to the Smokey Mountains, and putting puzzles together. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, and grandmother that will be missed dearly. Cynthia was preceded in death by her parents; and brother Jeff Rodgers.

Cynthia is survived by her husband of

# OBITUARIES

21 years, Thomas Guinn; children Jacob Lestor Bell, Thomas (Renee) Edward Bell and Sarah Jane Bell; grandchildren Kylie, Kyle, Alexis, Matthew, Jase, Ciara and Maura; brothers Joe Rodgers, John Rodgers and Matthew Rodgers; and sister Sharon Stecko.

A memorial service will be held Friday, April 26 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Boulogne, 28226 Church Drive, Hilliard.

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

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

**PAUL OWEN HINDS**

It is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Paul O. Hinds, 69, of Callahan, Thursday, April 4, 2024, at this home. Paul "Pops"

was born November 4, 1954 in Tampa, Florida to the late Maurice Hinds and Anna Avila Hinds. He was the youngest of eight children. Paul joined the US Army at the age of 17, to proudly serve his country. He was known for being a loving father and grandfather. Following retirement, Paul moved to Callahan, to spend time with his son and grandchildren. He enjoyed riding his grandchildren around on his scooter, attending his grandchildren's ballgames, listening to music, and sharing his knowledge and funny sense of humor with his family and friends. Paul is preceded in death by his brothers Charlie Hinds and Frederick "Freddy" Hinds.

Paul is survived by his son Jason (Ashley) Hinds; two beautiful grandchildren, Mason Hinds and Anna Hinds; brothers Frank Hinds, Maurice "Jim" Hinds, Johnny Hinds and Tommy Hinds; sister Dorothy Hinds Potter; and countless friends who will miss him dearly.

Paul brought happiness and joy to everyone he encountered. The family would like to welcome anyone who knew Paul to not only come celebrate but also share stories and memories of how Paul impacted their life. May Paul's legacy continue to live on through those who had the honor of knowing him.

A memorial service will be held Friday,

April 19 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home.

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

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

**KELLY E. WALKER, JR.**

Kelly E. Walker, Jr., longtime resident of Fernandina Beach, passed away Friday April 12, 2024 at the Warner Center for Caring. He was born in Hilliard. Kelly was a lifelong resident of Nassau County. He was a Hilliard High School graduate and served in the U. S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. Upon returning from the Navy, he entered Jacksonville University and while a student there he ran for and was elected Town Clerk for the Town of Hilliard.

When he graduated, as a member of the first 4-year graduating class of J.U., he accepted employment with the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors Corporation. He resigned his employment with Chevrolet when he purchased the Chevrolet dealership in Folkston, Georgia. He was the Chevrolet dealer in Folkston

until he applied for and was appointed the Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac-Opal dealer in Fernandina Beach. After selling the dealership in Fernandina Beach; he was the Sales Manager for Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville, until his retirement at age 79.

Kelly enjoyed wing shooting. He traveled North, South and Central America and Africa shooting game birds and waterfowl. He was selected several times, as a Senior Veteran Class Shooter, on the Florida State, Southeastern Region and All-American Sporting Clays Teams. He wanted to send a special thank you to his breakfast friends at McDonalds. Kelly was predeceased by his wife, Jean B. Walker; his parents Kelly E. and Violet Sikes Walker, Sr.; and a brother Wendell Walker.

He leaves behind his sons Brannan K. and Ramsey H. (Felicia) Walker; his daughter Suzanne Walker (Fabrizio Consiglio); grandchildren Hampton Walker, Kaitlyn Walker and Carissa Sheen.

In keeping with Kelly's request, there will be immediate services and he will be laid to rest with his wife at Bosque Bello Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Rather than flowers, donations may be given to Boys & Girls Club of Nassau County; or Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

Please share your memories and condolences at: [www.oxleyheard.com](http://www.oxleyheard.com).

**Jones Cemetery Association ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday, April 26**

**7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the NE FL Fairgrounds Office**

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# Career Fair Held at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School



Tuesday morning, students at Hilliard Middle-Senior High School were visited by local businesses for a Career Fair. The event enables students to converse with owners and employees within a variety of careers and gauge their interests in different fields. There were even technical centers in attendance to discuss opportunities in their fields.

The Career Fair is held yearly and hosted by Hilda Lloyd, Hilliard's volunteer Career Coach. There were

many different companies in attendance including WW Gay, Paul Clark Ford, ERA Realty, Franklin Equipment Sales, Tulsa Welding School, Bert Norman's Plumbing, J-Tech Institute, Gateway Contracting, SMART Local #435 Sheet Metal Workers, Miller Electric Company, Ephesus Baptist Church, CVS Pharmacy, Nassau County CTE and the US Army.





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 Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
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**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Historic Callahan Train Depot and Callahan Pavillion**  
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**CAR SHOW** 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
**KIDS' PLAY AREA** 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
 Hosted by Joel Pace Music Studio

**WELCOMING CEREMONY** 10:45 A.M.  
 Celebrating Nassau County's Bicentennial

*Hosted by the West Nassau Historical Society*

Entertainment From the Callahan Depot Pavilion

- 9:00 am - Buck Lucontro
- 9:35 am - CISWarrior Steel Band
- 10:10 am - Megan Stanford
- 10:45 am - Welcome, Prayer and National Anthem
- 11:30 pm - Liz & Randall Smith
- 12:20 pm - Michael Ward Band
- 1:10 pm - Jessy & Gabby Valerio
- 2:00 pm - Classic Car Show Awards
- 2:35 pm - Laid Back
- 3:20 pm - West Nassau Chiefs of Swing Jazz Band

From the Liz Mobley Main Stage

- 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. - Kidz Zone & Hands On Music Zoo  
Presented by Joel Pace Music Students

Western Handicap Ramp Project Opening - 11:30 am

Entertainment Coordinator - Jerry Peterson • Emcee - Buck Lucontro

\*Times and Performers subject to change without notice.