



Graceville, Grand Ridge split pair **1B**

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Marianna High announces Homecoming Court

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Police: Volusia shooter was in truck stolen from Marianna

In Barberville, deputies return fire; passenger killed, pregnant driver wounded

BY ANGIE COOK
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A Marianna business owner was the victim of theft Monday and the stolen property ended up being the scene of a deadly shooting hundreds of miles away.

Officials in Volusia County are reporting that two of their deputies escaped injury after a passenger shot at them during a Monday night traffic stop involving a truck stolen from Jackson County. The passenger was killed when deputies

returned fire and the pregnant woman driving the truck was hit by a bullet.

The driver was identified as Shannon Murphy, 19, and the passenger was identified as Timothy Wagner, 26. Both are from Marion, Virginia.

The truck Murphy was driving at the time of the traffic stop, a 2006 GMC Sierra pickup, was stolen from Discount Cars in Marianna earlier that day.

Business owner Rodney Thomas said his wife assisted Murphy with a test drive of the dark blue pickup truck around midday Monday. Roughly an hour later, when Murphy and a then-unidentified man she was traveling with had not returned to the Lafayette Street lot, Thomas made a call to the local restaurant where Murphy said

she worked, only to find that the establishment had no one employed there by that name. Thomas later called authorities to report the vehicle stolen and gave police a copy of Murphy's driver's license that she left at the lot prior to taking the truck off the premises.

Thomas has owned Discount Cars since the mid-1990s. During that time, he said, the business has lost vehicles to theft, but this was the first time one had been stolen during a test drive. Now, the businessman is wondering when and how his property will be recovered, and in what condition.

Hours after taking the truck from Marianna, the pair was stopped by two sheriff's



MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN

It was back to business as usual at Discount Cars Tuesday in Marianna. On Monday, the Lafayette Street business was the victim of theft after a pregnant Virginia teenager and the man accompanying her took a truck for a test drive and never returned. Hours later, the pair and the truck were in Volusia County, where the woman was hit by a bullet and her male passenger fatally wounded after he allegedly opened fire on deputies.

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HEALTH VIP SPEAKS TO GRACEVILLE STUDENTS

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
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A Florida Department of Health VIP spoke to students in Graceville High School's new environmental



Bloomer

sciences program this week. Andrew Reich, acting chief of the Bureau of Environmental

Health in the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection, made the trip from Tallahassee to Graceville on Tuesday, speaking to classes there in the early afternoon on the dangers of aquatic toxins.

This is the first year environmental science studies have been part of the curriculum at GHS. It was proposed as a course



MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN

Andrew Reich, the acting chief of the Bureau of Environmental Health, talks to one of Amanda Bloomer's environmental science classes at Graceville High School Tuesday.

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An overview of the DOH Water Toxins Program

The Florida Department of Health's website explains the role of its Water Toxins Program, the general subject of a talk given at Graceville High School by Andrew Reich. This text is taken verbatim from the site:

"Florida has an inviting subtropical climate along with 1,200 miles of coastline, 11,000 miles of rivers, streams and waterways, 7,700 lakes and more large springs than any other state. The Department of Health's (DOH) Water Toxins Program works to ensure that these waters are safe for recreation and that Florida seafood is safe to eat.

"We protect the health of Floridians by educating people about harmful algal blooms and their toxins, watching for illnesses in our communities, and working with local, state and federal agencies to reduce exposures to aquatic toxins.

"The role of the Aquatic Toxins Program is to prevent and reduce illness. One of the important ways we do this is by providing accurate information to residents and visitors, local health departments, the medical community and other interested people. With this information, people can make informed and healthy choices about their recreational activities and seafood consumption."

2 from Chipley charged in heroin case

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
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Two Chipley residents have been arrested on charges of possessing and trafficking heroin.

Tracey Lynn O'Neil, 45, was arrested in Tallahassee and Cory Matthew Lee, 26, was arrested in Michigan by authorities in those jurisdictions who executed the warrants on behalf of Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Additionally, charges may be pending in the case in relation to some stolen property that was found in the shared dwelling of Lee and O'Neil, according to WSCO spokesman Andrea Gainey.

The drug cases against O'Neil and Lee were developed from a tip that narcotics were to be delivered to their listed address, 5094 Pine Ridge Dr. Investigators with the Washington County Sheriff's Office enlisted the help of a K-9



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

These items were seized by the Washington County Sheriff's Office in a case involving heroin that was delivered to a house in Chipley, which was later searched and yielded other items of interest to authorities.

team when they intercepted the suspect package prior to its delivery. After the dog alerted on it, officers allowed the package to be delivered to the Lee/O'Neil residence and witnessed it being given over and signed for.

After it was delivered, the package was opened and officers confirmed the presence of heroin concealed in a DVD case and wrapped in plastic.

In a subsequent search of the residence, officers found a plastic bag with a brown substance that tested positive for heroin, WSCO officials reported. Digital scales, baggies, ledgers, and prescription pills and bottles were also found. Investigators recovered roughly 22 grams of heroin with an estimated street value of \$8,800.

O'Neil and Lee were not arrested immediately after

the package was signed for. After the delivered heroin was seized, the two were allowed to go until the warrants for their arrests were issued, with the results of the search of the home playing into the justifying elements for the warrant.

If convicted as charged, O'Neil and Lee each face a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years in prison and a possible fine of \$100,000.



FILE PHOTO

In this Floridan file photo Union Grove alumni tour their old alma mater's hallways.

Old school festival is this Saturday

Union Grove renovation fundraiser kicks off at 11 a.m.

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
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The Union Grove Alumni Association is hosting September Fest at its alma mater this Saturday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The old school is located at 4517 Basswood Rd.

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