



Informing more than 17,000 readers daily in print and online

JACKSON COUNTY FLORIDIAN



Therapist shot by police reunites with autistic client **6A**

FRIDAY JULY 29, 2016

www.jcfloridan.com

75¢

Vol. 93 No. 153

Grand Ridge woman dies in crash

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
dbuckhalter@jcfloridan.com

A Grand Ridge woman was killed in a Liberty County traffic crash Wednesday afternoon. According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, Lee Ann Wilk, 42, was westbound on SW Vilas Sumner Road just before 3 p.m. on July 27 and entered the direct path of an oncoming Mack truck as she turned right onto north-

bound State Road 65. The driver of the truck took evasive action by applying his brakes and steering into the southbound lane but was unable to avoid a collision, officials said. The front of the 2001 truck struck the left side of the 2003 Hyundai Elantra that Wilk was driving, then overturned on the west shoulder of SR 65. The victim's vehicle came to rest on the

west shoulder of the road facing northwest. Wilk was pronounced dead at the scene by a Liberty County Emergency Medical Services paramedic. The driver of the truck was identified as Quincy resident Jack G. Kimble, 64. He suffered minor injuries and was taken to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital for treatment, officials reported.

Crimes Around the Region

Woman pleads to 2nd-degree murder in Bay County

The woman suspected of shooting her boyfriend to death in his Cedar Grove home in Bay County last October entered a "no contest" plea to second-degree murder Thursday, July 28. Judge Michael Overstreet then sentenced 42-year-old Melissa Kennedy to a 40-year mandatory-minimum term in prison. She is required to serve it day for day, with no gain time or early release possible. According to the State Attorney's Office, the daughters of the victim, Clifford Lewis, are supportive of the sentence.

Chipley man convicted of child sexual battery

A Washington County jury has convicted Chipley resident Carl Lewis Burns on 10 counts of sexual battery on a child. He faces up to 30 years in prison on each count. Sentencing is set for Sept. 12 before Circuit Judge Peter Mallory. Assistant State Attorney Shalla Jefcoat prosecuted the case. During the one-day trial Wednesday, Jefcoat asserted that the 62-year-old had repeatedly sexually assaulted a teenage girl over the course of more than two years, from October 2012 to February of last year. The victim had reported the abuse Feb. 15, 2015, to the Washington County Sheriff's Office. DNA evidence collected at the hospital confirmed the last sexual assault, according to the State Attorney's Office.

From staff reports

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR LIBRARY BOOK SALE



DEBORAH BUCKHALTER/FLORIDIAN

Library team: From left, Assistant Jackson County Library System Director Susanna Gaston, Director Deborah Hynes and Reference Coordinator Randall Hinson show off some of the books and other library assets that will be available during the annual Friends of the Library book sale this fall.



Library spiral: These music CDs and audiobooks are among the materials that will be up for public sale at a Friends of the Library event in September.

City of Marianna



ANGIE COOK/FLORIDIAN

City Commissioners, (from left) Kenny Hamilton, John Roberts, Allen Ward II, Rico Williams and Travis Ephriam meet Monday, July 29, in Marianna.

Roll-back millage rate proposed at city budget workshop

BY ANGIE COOK
acook@jcfloridan.com

MARIANNA — The annual budget-making process formally began for city commissioners this week, resulting in a proposal to impose the rolled-back millage rate to ensure the same amount of tax revenue is collected from residents. City Manager Jim Dean prepared some spending information for the board, highlighting several work projects from the past year and other budget changes. In his presentation, Dean commended city department heads and supervisors for managing their funds. He said the city can expect to be within budget at the end of the fiscal year. Looking forward, Dean noted several issues that will impact city spending for the 2016-17 fiscal year, including a 10.1-percent increase in city-funded employee healthcare costs. The fire assessment rate for city utility customers goes from \$6 to \$8 per month this year and the fee will bring in roughly \$340,000 in its third year of implementation, but there will be drops in city revenue of over \$150,000 after the termination of two agreements with the county regarding fire services. A bump for certain pay grades will cost the city over \$22,000. A 2 percent pay

See **BUDGET**, Page 6A

Florida Gov. Rick Scott to chair Trump super PAC

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Florida Gov. Rick Scott is going to become national chairman of a super PAC that is backing Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. Scott announced Wednesday that he would start raising money and work

on behalf of Rebuilding America Now. Scott is a multimillionaire businessman who jumped into politics in 2010 when he first ran for governor. He has spent roughly \$85 million of his own money on his two races. He said in an interview with Fox News that Rebuilding America Now has raised

\$6 million so far and has "millions" in additional pledges. The governor did not officially back Trump until after the businessman won the Florida GOP primary. Scott has stopped raising money on behalf of the Republican Party of Florida due to a rift with party activists.



This Newspaper Is Printed On Recycled Newsprint