

metro

COREY REACTION
Internet comments on the
state attorney story **Story, B-3**



terry dickson

St. Athanasius' panes remind us of the pains

BRUNSWICK, GA. | Johnnie Mae Chappell was on a dark Jacksonville street March 23, 1964, looking for the wallet she had lost between her house and the store. She and her husband had 10 children, so its loss was enough to get her out at 7:30 as race riots raged elsewhere in town.

Four men in a car, looking for an African-American "to get," saw her beside the road with two friends. A man in the back seat pointed a gun at her and — he said — it went off accidentally. She died that night in a Jacksonville hospital. That's how her name came to be one of 41 on a stained glass window in St. Athanasius Episcopal Church in Brunswick.

Her name is with those of Emmett Till, Lt. Col. Lemuel Penn, the Rev. Bruce Klunder, Martin Luther King Jr. and other "martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement."

The window depicts Jesus hanging on the cross and a black man and white man separated by strands of barbed wire on their knees praying. The barbed wire is a symbol of a lot of other painful things, among them nightsticks, the flashing teeth of police dogs, firehoses, segregated schools, whites-only water fountains, the bars of the Birmingham jail and an explosion in a church.

The Rev. Robert H. Wright and his wife, Maude, who were members, donated the window, and it was dedicated in November 2001. Wright was an Episcopal priest who worked in civil rights in West Georgia. As most white preachers in the South made plans to keep blacks out of their pews, Wright and other Episcopal priests worked to get them seats at lunch counters, at the front of buses and in public schools.

Before 2001, the church had just three stained glass windows over the entrance doors. Inspired by the Wrights' gift, all its windows are stained glass now, and newly installed Senior Warden Charlene Parker sat highlighted Thursday in their royal blue light. When she was a child, Parker's family attended Abyssinian Baptist Church a half mile north. She came to St. Athanasius in 1984 as the organist.

"When I was a little girl ... I came to a funeral here, and I heard the organ. It was so pretty to me," she said.

At segregated Risley High School, her history



Photos by Bob Mack@jacksonville.com

Hands on Jacksonville and United Way of Northeast Florida came together Saturday to do community events in honor of Martin Luther King Day of Service. One project was a Live the DREAM Global Peace Tiles project in which children, teenagers and adults created tiles, most with themes of hope and peace, that will become part of a wall at the North Point Town Center, where the event was staged. Luke Jean (from left), Lauren Rasch, and Lynnette Quiles, all from Teach For America, work on their tiles, and Ya'kema Davis, from King Solomon United Baptist Church, finishes hers.

King's message lives on

Hundreds honor MLK's memory by participating in Day of Service

By David Bauerlein
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Middle-school student Daniyyah Moore glued messages of peace on a brightly decorated square-shaped piece of wood.

Around her, other people did the same on more squares of wood. Later, their art would be assembled into a giant mosaic — "peace tiles" trumpeting the message of Martin Luther King Jr.

"I want people to read it and actually do what they're reading — nonviolence," Moore said. "You can talk and all that, but actions speak louder than words."

As Moore worked on her peace tile, hundreds of volunteers fanned out across Jacksonville, taking part in the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service.

They replanted a "community peace garden" that was originally planted in 2013 at Andrew Robinson Elementary School.



Finished tiles that have been covered with shellac were placed on a table to dry.

RealSense Campaign volunteers went door-to-door in Springfield, Northwest Jacksonville and

East Jacksonville neighborhoods. They handed out information about free tax preparation services.

Hands on Jacksonville and the United Way of Northeast Florida organized the events. Operation New Hope also was involved with neighborhood cleanup efforts.

"Dr. King exemplified what it meant to lead a life of compassion and service," said City Councilman Johnny Gaffney, who participated in a rally that kicked off the service projects. "You are following his example by giving your time to improve our community."

Jacksonville resident Sharon Valentine said she's worried that with the passage of time, King's message has lost its ability to move younger people.

"I think it has diminished because every generation is different, and there's not as much compassion now," she said.

She brought her 10-year-old son to the tile-painting session, hosted by the Northwest Jacksonville Community Development District at its building along Moncrief Road. She said she hopes her son will absorb the ideals behind King's life and they will stick with him as he grows up.

"We have to keep the

PEACE continues on B-3

Fernandina selects city clerk

Commission chooses Best, who has worked for city for 10 years

By Dan Scanlan
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Caroline Best was approved Monday by the Fernandina Beach City Commission as the new city clerk.

Provided by Caroline Best

Fernandina Beach has a permanent city clerk after a year of searching, and she comes from within City Hall's ranks. Caroline Best, currently assistant to City Attorney Tammi Bach, was offered the job after a Monday vote of the City Commission.

The five-member commission interviewed Best, Charmagne Manning from Alachua and Teresa Bolden from Valdosta during Monday's meeting. Best received three votes, with the others getting one vote each. In the end, all five voted unanimously to offer Best the job, which has a salary range of \$47,000 to \$70,200.

The 44-year-old Fernandina Beach resident has worked for the city for 10 years. She was in charge of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood-insurance program in the building department and also was the city's only certified permitting clerk. She was a fully certified code enforcement expert before joining the city attorney's office two years ago as chief liaison and administrative specialist.

"I am extremely excited, humbled and honored that they are giving me the opportunity, and have the confidence in me," she said. "I will be the best city clerk the city has ever had."

Mayor Ed Boner said Best was his second choice, but he is still very pleased that the job offer goes to someone already on the city payroll.

"Other commissioners were more biased toward hiring an in-house candidate," Boner said. "She is intelligent and articulate and she will do a good job. She will learn the new job quickly and we don't add a new employee to the city payroll."

The city had to look for a new clerk a year ago after Mary Mercer retired after about 17 years in the position. A city planner was offered the job in May but turned down the offer. Deputy clerk Kim Briley was appointed as clerk pro tem as the search for a successor resumed.

Best said she applied because she is always striving for new challenges and it was an "amazing opportunity."

"I find the work extremely motivating," Bell said. "I can't wait to have increased responsibilities and make a positive impact on the community."

City officials will negotiate a contract for Best for commission approval at a future meeting.

Boner said Best needs city clerk certification, which she said is her "highest priority." She said she plans to move to the new job in the next two months.

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Ola Allen, from King Solomon United Baptist Church, and her granddaughter, Zyasia Hendrickson, 6, show off the tiles they created for the project.

PEACE

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dream alive," she said. "We have to wake up the dream, because it's fallen asleep."

Paul Tutwiler, executive

director of the Northwest Jacksonville Community Development District, said events like the service projects Saturday add up. He compared it to the individual "peace tiles" created by the young people

that will combine into the larger mosaic.

"We recognize that small things — simple things — collectively can make a big difference," he said.

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COLEMAN

Continued from B-1

seat at a Jacksonville Beach air show. A Times-Union reporter asked him if the fighter planes roaring overhead stirred feelings of patriotism.

"What it stirs is my interest in getting back in one," Adm. Coleman said. "Maybe in the world I next go to, they'll have one waiting there for me."

Adm. Coleman died Tuesday at St. Vincent's Medical Center. He was 91.

Adm. Coleman, who flew Hellcats against the Japanese in World War II and once commanded the aircraft carrier USS Ranger, transferred his leadership skills to the community after retiring in 1975. He was a founder of Fleet Landing retirement community off Mayport Road and the community center and administration building are named after him. He served as JEA chairman in 1987, was selected by former Mayor Ed Austin as interim executive director of the Jacksonville Housing and Development Authority and led efforts to convert the Mayport-based aircraft carrier USS Saratoga into a museum.

"He was sociable, very engaging, extremely honest and proud," said his daughter, Sherrie Millichap of Minden, Nev. "He would light up a whole room."

Adm. Coleman was born in Atlanta in 1922. He joined the Navy in 1942 and after training as an aviator, served as a fighter pilot in the Pacific. Following the war, he served on the USS Midway.

During his military career, Adm. Coleman flew various types of aircraft and made 550 carrier ship landings. Among his assignments were public information officer at Atlanta Naval Air Station, air operations officer on the USS Hornet and commanding officer of several attack squadrons. He was commanding officer of the USS Mispillion, a supply ship off the coast of Vietnam, in 1967-68 and commanding officer of the Ranger, also off the Vietnam coast, from 1969-71.

Upon his promotion to rear admiral, he became commandant of the 4th Naval District and commander of the Philadelphia Naval Base before retiring in Jacksonville. Along the way, he earned a degree in business administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Although he hadn't flown in his later years, he continued driving until recent months, Millichap said.

He was an exceptional military leader who was highly respected, said retired Adm. Jonathan Howe, a friend who succeeded Coleman as board chairman at Fleet Landing. He was successful because he had lots of energy, was dedicated, determined, inspirational and had a positive spirit, Howe said.

"He led by example," he said. "He's unique in the sense of everybody who met him liked him."

Friends also described him as a man with a great sense of humor. On his memorial page, one said he could sit and listen to his "unbelievable sea stories"

for hours.

One of his passions was Fleet Landing, said Howe and Steve Jarecki, current board chairman. Adm. Coleman and a few others conceived the idea of developing a naval retirement community. Through his involvement over 20 years, he brought it to where it is today, Jarecki said.

"He was a roll-up-your-sleeves kind of guy," said Jarecki, adding that before board meetings, he would visit with residents to show the board's support and because he enjoyed talking with them. Before he left the board in 2005, the marketing focus shifted from strictly military to include others, particularly those in the Beaches area, Jarecki said.

Indeed, his resume includes a long list of memberships in military, civic and community organizations. He served on the board of the Meninak Club, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the American Cancer Society, the Boy Scouts of America, the Navy League of Jacksonville, the Commodores League and various mayoral committees.

In addition to his daughter Sherrie, he is survived by his wife of 69 years, Margie Coleman; another daughter, Carol Jackson, and a son Joseph Coleman Jr., all of Jacksonville; seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home, 4115 Hendricks Ave. He will be interred at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Sandy Strickland: (904) 359-4128

First Coast Happenings

Compiled by Cindy Hollifield, The Times-Union

SUNDAY

Florida Gun Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Buy, sell, trade, browse. Concealed weapons class at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"Beehive: The 60's Musical,"

2 p.m., Players by the Sea, 106 Sixth St. N., Jacksonville Beach. Show continues 8 p.m. Jan. 23-25, 2 p.m. Jan. 26, 8 p.m. Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 1 and 6-8. \$28;

for every ticket sold, Players by the Sea will donate \$1 to the Mary Kay Foundation. (904) 249-0289 or playerbythesea.org.

Front Porch Chats, 2-3 p.m.,

Mandarin Museum and Historical Society, 11964 Mandarin Road. Features Mandarin resident Billy Barwald with an interactive history discussion. Topics include

"How one word changed each of us," "What is the biggest change in our lives since the telephone and electricity?" and "The Politics of War: England and her people before and after World War II." Program continues Jan. 26. mandarinmuseum.net.

Jacksonville Symphony

Orchestra with "Stars of the Symphony." Coffee Concert, Matinee Concert, 3 p.m. Sunday; Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 300 W. Water St. Features violinist Phillip Pan, clarinetist Peter Wright, flutist Les Roettges and trombonist Jeffrey Peterson. Coffee concert, \$16-\$26; matinee concert, \$20-\$58. (904) 354-5547 or jaxsymphony.org.

"Discover First America"

Adventure Program series, presented by the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration, 7 p.m., Flagler College's Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. Features "Let Freedom Ring," with remembrances of landmark events that occurred in St. Augustine during the 1960s by those who witnessed and experienced the events. Program in conjunction with the "Journey: 450 Years of the African-American Experience" exhibit opening. Series continues Feb. 26 on "The Story of Fort Mose;" and March 12 on "In White America." (904) 825-1053 or staugustine-450.com.

River Patrol Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, The Rudder Club, 8533 Malaga Ave. St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman will give a "State of the River" presentation regarding issues currently facing the St. Johns watershed. Also includes snacks with a cash bar. Free. Contact Roger Linville at roger@stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

Dance, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays, Orange Park Senior Center, 414 Stowe Ave. Features a live 3-piece dance band. \$5. (904) 396-1997.

TUESDAY

Tapas Tuesdays at The Cafe,

5-7 p.m. Tuesdays, The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Ave. Includes area musicians, beer and wine tastings paired with tapas. Free. (904) 899-6022.

"Pump Boys and Dinettes — a Musical Comedy," meal 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays; meal 11:15 a.m., show 1:15 p.m. Saturdays; meal 12:15 p.m., show 2 p.m. Sundays; Alhambra Theatre & Dining, 12000 Beach Blvd. Show runs through Feb. 2. Tickets start at \$46 for adults, \$35 for children. Reservations, (904) 641-1212 or alhambrajax.com.

St. Augustine Community Chorus rehearsals, 6:50 p.m. Tuesdays, Trinity Episcopal Church, Artillery Lane. Rehearsals for concert focusing on the 2014 celebration of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act. Concerts start March 15. Chorus membership \$25. staugustinecommunitychorus.org.

Dance, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Lane Wiley Senior Citizens Center, 6710 Wiley Road. Features a live 2-piece dance band. \$5. (904) 260-8061.

SATURDAY

Open house, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, 5 Star Vets Center, 40 Acme St. Includes coffee and doughnuts. Donations needed. (904) 723-5950 or 5starveteranscenter.org.

Winter RAM, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through Feb. 22, Riverside Arts Market, 715 Riverside Ave., under the Fuller Warren

vehicle for 2-8 people, \$4 single occupant vehicles, \$2 pedestrians/bicyclists. (386) 329-3721 or floridastateparks.org.

Author Series — "Jacksonville: In Local Voices and Words," 5:30 p.m., Main Library, 303 N. Laura St. (except Jan. 25). (904) 630-4655 or jaxpubliclibrary.org.

■ Jan. 25 — Autobiography Workshop and Vintage Postcards presentation, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., University Park branch library, 3435 University Park Blvd. N. Features Elizabeth "Liz" Courten, a Sarasota author and self-described "serial" entrepreneur, with a workshop on "Yes, You! An Entertaining Autobiography in Three Easy Steps" and presentation on "Having Fun, Wish You Were Here! An Illustrated History of the Postcard in Florida." Program followed by a question/answer period.

■ Jan. 28 — Mary F. Mungen Jameson with her book, "Remembering Neighborhoods of Jacksonville, Florida: Oakland, Campbell's Addition, East Jacksonville — Fairfield: The African-American Influence."

■ Feb. 11 — W. Earl Kitchings with "Gut Check Dictionary," a motivational book series, along with his work on historical high school sports record books.

■ Feb. 25 — Dorothy Fletcher with her book, "Lost Restaurants of Jacksonville," and other works about her life in the River City.

Fax to (904) 359-4478 or email events@jacksonville.com. Complete listing at jacksonville.com/calendars.

"I hope that by sharing my experiences, patients and their loved ones will leave these programs feeling more empowered."

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