

HardisonInk.com

Jeff M. Hardison reviews 2016



The two coaches and six of the 10 CAAA *HardisonInk.com* Soccer Team players are seen here.

Photo Provided

**By Jeff M. Hardison
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9:07 a.m.**

THE WORLD –
Every human being has his or her own perspective of what exists, and there is a

communal or shared belief in what some group sees – although two groups might see the same event at the same time and place, while having opinions that are 180 degrees apart (or exactly opposite and opposing views).

As a professional, award-winning, daily and weekly newspaper reporter, photographer and editor for the past 45 years -- since I was 15 years old -- I have watched and reported (and edited) the coverage published for the masses to see from my perspective as an observer.

In the past 60 years, I was also a teacher, a novel writer, an executor and then trustee for a trust, a pipe layer, a Coca-Cola truck loader, a MacDonal'd's worker, an assistant purchasing agent at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, a clerk at a Lil' General convenience store, a real estate tax record researcher, an honorably discharged United States Army soldier, a waiter, a busboy, a dish washer, a milk carton-filling machine-cleaning worker at Hood's Dairy, a power-raking laborer who helped with honey removal and other chores for Frank Ryczek {with Vinny Ryczek and Robin Thackrey}, a laborer on various construction sites, a background records researcher, a technical assistance worker for IT at Eckerd Drugs, and I have been involved as a principle in a couple of other investment and money-making ventures.

Realizing all people's "take" on anything, and skipping all except some parts of 2016, though, here is my review of how I hope to have helped humanity with the 6-year-old HardisonInk.com in 2016. This website marks its seventh anniversary in February of 2017, and I see even greater promise for ventures and positive adventures in the coming year as I publish, edit, write stories, and take photographs and videos for the general public, God willing.

Put Up 365 Daily Devotionals

The first job for me each day in 2016 has been daily devotionals. The Christian Press is part of the Life Page. In 2016, the three weekly Christian-oriented columnists have been relatively consistent as well.

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Provided Weather Coverage

The Weather Bug link on the Home Page gives people easy access to a very reliable weather reporting and forecasting tool. It worked well in 2016 and is on tap for 2017.

Wrote And Edited Thousands Of Stories

Some news organizations choose to recap events that were covered by them during the previous year. I have done that before and I may do it next year.

People looking at the 10,000 to 12,000 different computer screens throughout the planet each day to read stories in 2016 are destined to continue in 2017 to return to this website for daily coverage of news and human interest stories.

The stories, photos and videos have informed, educated and entertained the masses to the degree that the website is known as the best and most reliable source for daily coverage – especially in Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties, but also in other spots on occasion.

Surfers and a professional pianist in St. Augustine are some of the more recent coverage outside the normal region.

Took Thousands Of Pictures And Videos

Many people enjoyed the photographs and videos published in 2016, including by Senior Reporter Terry Witt, the now main independent contractor for the site in that regard.

Flew The Dragonfly Drone

The DragonFly II -- flown by hobbyist Jeff M. Hardison with his official Federal Aviation Administration hobbyist number for all drones under his command -- took its first official hobbyist flight Thursday morning (June 23).

That particular Unmanned Aerial System was operated with greater success as more practice and minutes in the air have allowed for improved photography and videography with that toy. This is not a professional grade machine, and it stays well within the bounds of FAA-mandated and common sense-dictated safety ranges.

Andy Andrews Died

Andy Andrews died in 2016. Andrews is the newspaper owner who paid me 10 years ago to work for him. It wasn't long, though, before his former editor chose to fire me.

So Gerry Mulligan and Dale Bowen paid me to work for the Landmark-owned set of newspapers. Andrews' former editor left his company to work for Landmark and she chose to fire me there again. I went to the daily newspaper in Lake City and was the third of three editorial staff reporters and editors who were let go to its failing to sell enough newspapers due to people having access to instant news on the TV and Internet.

An Ocala-based magazine hired me, but after a few months, it failed financially and I was again laid off.

As for the last thing in 2016 with Andrews, he saw me coming out of the Chiefland Police Department one day – about a week before he died. He called me over to his vehicle and was going to tell me something, but he received a phone call and had to leave.

Andrews told me he would call me and tell me later. A couple of days after that, I called him and left a message that I had not heard from him, but that I knew my call was making the crickets chirp somewhere. I said that because the sound of crickets were his ring tone.

I never heard that last message from Andrews and his newspaper was not carried

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forward after his death.

M. Teal Pomeroy Died

Chiefland Mayor Matthew Teal Pomeroy died in 2016. I always enjoyed speaking with Pomeroy, as well as writing about his activity on the Chiefland City Commission.

Softball Team Visits Tropicana Field

My wife Sharon Hardison told me this year, as she did when the Williston High School Varsity Baseball team won two successive state championships, that she felt the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team could do something to recognize the Chiefland High School Varsity Softball Team for its three consecutive state championships.

She contacted the Rays and learned about a particular day when teams and coaches would walk in the outfield of Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg during a baseball game.

Sharon made sure the team learned about the option, and the players, coaches, families and some strong fans went to watch that event, which was covered by HardisonInk.com.

Back when the team was known as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and they had spring training at Al Lang Field in St. Petersburg, more than 10 years ago, I was making money as a freelancer.

I wrote an excellent story with pictures regarding people shagging flies outside the centerfield wall. I returned to my car to find a baseball-sized and shaped hole in my car's windshield. Someone had removed that baseball before I returned to my car.

I lacked a level of insurance to cover that loss. The Rays bought me a new windshield. Still, I never got that particular baseball...

The Rays became "my" team after they came into existence.

Soccer Team

In 2016, *HardisonInk.com* enjoyed the honor and privilege to sponsor the youngest set of soccer players in the Chiefland Area Athletic Association.

The publisher has been previously approached for several chances to sponsor many groups, and has done so to a very minor degree before. However, this request for sponsorship was brought forward with such grace, style and fateful coincidence that it just had to happen.

The fluorescent green *HardisonInk.com* team competed against the turquoise blue CAAA team all season. Every player on both of those teams was a winner. It was an excellent season.

Thanks is noted to all of the coaches, parents and players on all of the CAAA soccer teams for their effort in this sport. Baseball and football leagues in the CAAA and in the Dixie County Little League, the Williston Youth Athletic Association, the Bronson Parks and Recreation and the many other leagues, associations and groups in the Tri-County Area are all to be commended.

Awarded A 7-Inch Kindle Fire

HardisonInk.com awarded a 7-inch Kindle Fire tablet to a person who won it by participating in the only contest of that level this year. With last year being the fifth anniversary, the website had many contests and prizes.

The level of contests and prizes for 2017 is not yet firm enough to announce. Please keep watching.

Bid on Delinquent Tax List

The most recent new activity where the website may expand will be the publication of

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the names of taxpayers who are delinquent on paying their ad valorem property taxes.

This is a business venture for some people, who can purchase those properties for the mere cost of property taxes if the owner fails to pay those taxes for some number of years, and then fails to reimburse the person who paid the taxes (with some level of interest).

Antiquated Florida law mandates the list be published in a paper newspaper that has paid circulation and is available in the county, etc. HardisonInk.com is a daily news website.

Levy County, like all 67 Florida counties, can choose to go beyond the mandatory minimum requirement to publish this list. There is a potential for a future story showing more details about this bid, as well as how advertising the list in *HardisonInk.com* reaches not only more people – for free – but is helpful in other manners.

Chambers Of Commerce

We started 2016 as members of six Chambers of Commerce. In 2017, we are choosing to start with being members of four Chambers.

New In 2017

The first new thing in 2017 is another advertiser to join the set of sponsors.

Buddy and Fred's Hardware in Inglis (on ALL SEVEN PAGES, Including The HOME PAGE <http://www.hardisonink.com/index.php#hardware>) starts its first year with *HardisonInk.com*. This hardware store is heralding its 34th year in business, and like all of our advertisers, it scores our endorsement.

The other starters for sponsorship in 2017, other than a list of national advertisers that is too long to note, are All Seasons Air & Electric; Bronson Lube; CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion; Central Florida Electric Cooperative; Chambers Of Commerce (four) – Cedar Key, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, and Inglis and Yankeetown (Withlacoochee Gulf Area); Chiefland Farmer's Flea Market; the City of Williston; Clyatt House Learning Center In Chiefland; the College Of Central Florida; the College Of Central Florida's EXCEL-IT Program; Complete Sleep & Furnishings; Dr. Bill Martin of Martin Orthodontics; Dixie Music Center of Old Town; First United Methodist Church of Chiefland; Haven Hospice; Jim King Realty Inc.; Jones Performance Cycles Of Chiefland; the Levy County Visitors Bureau; Nature Coast Driver Improvement; North Central Florida Regional Housing Authority; Oaks Pawn, Jewelry And Firearms Of Gainesville; Palms Medical Group; The Print Shop of Chiefland; The Putnam Lodge – Hotel And Spa of Dixie County, And Dixie Paintball; Quincey Cattle Co.; QuitDoc; Regional General Hospital of Williston; The Shed Ranch; Steamers Clam Bar And Grill of Cedar Key; Stone Petroleum Products; SunState Federal Credit Union; Waste Pro; and Weeks Bail Bonds.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, readers, viewers and listeners (the videos have audio) for making us succeed in 2016.

I am humbled to be given the opportunity to cover this wonderful Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties for the people of the world.

I thank God for all things first and foremost.