

HardisonInk.com

Publisher reviews 2017

Stories, Photos and Videos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec 31, 2017 at 11:47 a.m.

TRI-COUNTY AREA – In thinking about writing a year-in-review story, it dawns upon me that the daily news website has an archive area where people can review this year.

Interestingly, not even every heinous crime is saved there.

I am going to open with some of the stories, photos and videos in the archive by first looking at a hurricane, and some out-of-area visits for space launch coverage.

Then, there is the rest of the year – including the opening of the College of Central Florida's campus of the Jack Wilkinson Levy Center north of Chiefland on Aug. 11.

A hurricane that uprooted HardisonInk.com and forced operations to be placed in a Chiefland motel for seven days was a good test for 100 percent evacuation and then satellite transmissions.

Hurricane Irma proved to be a significant test for the daily news website in 2017. HardisonInk.com has gone seven years without missing a day – even through this second mandatory evacuation.

Despite Hurricane Irma displacing Jeff Hardison, Sharon Hardison and the cats Goldy and Inky Hardison, the daily news website provided the best, most updated local and state information about Hurricane Irma of any media outlet serving the area.

Click [HERE](#) to see is one sample of the archived stories from the event.

This story in the archive shows Bronson United Methodist Church feeding first responders on Sept. 16. And there are other stories, photos and videos from Hurricane Irma – from before the evacuation, through the evacuation and after the storm passed, by clicking [HERE](#).

This Sept. 7 video shows evacuation through Chiefland. It shows the ground view and then an aerial view from a drone of the evacuation. It can be watched by clicking [HERE](#).

Space Coverage 2017

I had a few stories in 2017, some number of photos and videos in HardisonInk.com showing the publication reaching across the state to Brevard County, and especially to the National Aeronautic Space Administration at Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral.

I was truly honored to go on a Launch Director Tour conducted by retired NASA Space Shuttle Launch Director Michael "Mike" Leinbach. Meeting William M. "Bill" Foster, who is the Ground Controller (GC) supporting the International Space Station, and the lead GC for the Mission Operations team for Boeing's CST-100 Starliner from the Houston, Texas, NASA complex, was a completely unexpected privilege for me too.

That whole story is in the archive.

Launch Director Tour – click [HERE](#).

Another amazing news coverage trip I enjoyed this year was in April to watch an Atlas V rocket launch. This was by United Launch Alliance, and I was able to watch it thanks to NASA granting me the press credentials required for that event.

Atlas V rocket launches the S.S. John Glenn – click [HERE](#).

The second story from the April trip to the East Coast was a look at the chance for this Tri-County Area journalist to cover the launch.

Tri-County Area journalist covers ULA launch thanks to NASA – click [HERE](#).

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THE REST OF 2017

Overall, 2017 was another great year for the daily news website. Senior Reporter Terry Witt was able to be sent to cover more stories and photos as my independent contractor, thanks to ad revenue growth helping to fund that expansion.

A few student journalists assisted with the coverage of news and sports in 2017, and I provided some feedback to them. It is also thanks to columnists and other volunteers who made the year successful. Thank-you people!

Now let's look at a bit of month-by-month review of 2017.

Please remember that the archive is available by clicking on the logo at the bottom right column, below the local ads there. Also know that I am writing this on the fly, so to speak, as I weave it into part of one day.

The following are not necessarily the most important or earth-shaking stories, but instead may be viewed as a glimpse to tempt people to scroll through the archives – or even hunt for previously published articles, photos or videos.

JANUARY

The donation of the Jaws of Life to the Cedar Key Volunteer Fire Department by Firehouse Subs was a happy story.

The story and photos are available by clicking [HERE](#).

The first story where I bid on the opportunity to publish delinquent ad valorem property tax certificates was in January. That story can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

Eventually in 2017, Levy County Tax Collector Linda Fugate and the Levy County Board of County Commissioners bought a relatively small ad, and I helped bring revenue to the county via people buying those tax certificates. That helped those investors, too, because this is a relatively conservative and safe investment.

FEBRUARY

Readers set an all-time record by using the daily news website in this month. Actually, throughout the year a lot of records were set – as has been the case since day one -- Feb. 1, 2011.

That story and graph can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

There are many great stories every day, and of course, every week and month. The archive shows some of them.

Renowned world-famous banjo player Mark Johnson lives and works in this part of Florida. The former director of Levy County Emergency Management is now working for the Florida Department of Health, under the leadership of Levy-Dixie-Gilchrist Counties Health Department Units Director Barbara Locke.

This Feb. 22, 2017 story – able to be seen by clicking [HERE](#) shows a little bit about his planned trip to perform at a famous Nashville venue.

Most years, I go to the LifeSouth Community Blood Services event where they thank media members for helping people know about donating blood.

In this story, I show me accepting an award and I show some of the local organizations and schools who earned recognition as well. Click [HERE](#) to see that story and photos.

Donna Cicale, a deputy clerk with Levy County Clerk of Courts Danny Shipp retired.

This was another retirement where I was invited and was able to attend. Cicale is among the many, many great people who have worked for the county governments in Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

To see the coverage of her retirement, click [HERE](#).

MARCH

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Once again, the Suwannee River Fair and Youth Livestock Show and Sale generated several pieces.

Among those in the archive is this set, which can be seen by clicking [HERE](#), and which includes some of the winners in some of the competition. Please remember to look for other SRF stories, photos and videos in the archive if that is of interest to you.

Another batch of March coverage is the Levy County Fair. In this story with photos, there is one part of that relatively extensive coverage that was archived. It can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

APRIL

An April story about the return from Nashville of the talented and famous banjo player Mark Johnson can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

We had relatively good softball coverage in 2017. One of those many stories can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

MAY

Looking at archived stories, people will see there is far too much to even note in this year-end review.

In May, though, there is another story where Chiefland High School softball players were recognized as they accepted scholarships.

Head CHS Varsity Softball Coach Wayne Weatherford wrapped up more than a quarter of a century of dedicated coaching in this month, and remains as the CHS coach who has brought teams to earn the most state championship titles of any school in Levy County.

Here is one of those sports scholarship stories, with some relatively good photos. It can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

JUNE

For almost every year, HardisonInk.com covered every high school graduation in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

In 2017, we got most of them covered.

I had the wonderful occasion to visit with Jim Mixson of Williston for a little bit one afternoon, and he gave me a chance to reflect with him a tiny bit about his mother – a graduate of the Williston High School Class of 1927.

That story and photos can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

JULY

Kenneth Bell gave me a chance to participate in the Fourth Annual Bell Blast.

While my old drone (unmanned aerial system) was not up to snuff enough to let me feel comfortable on the field with the more-advanced flyers, I did have fun and shot some photos and video.

That can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

Shortly after this event, I upped my hobbyist participation with a better drone – which I am calling The Dragonfly.

One amazing and great story was from the ANNUAL CALADIUM FESTIVAL in Lake Placid. This was one of my first uses of The Dragonfly.

That can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

While I did not archive every story of success for major law enforcement operations in this part of Florida in 2017, there is this historic heroin bust from Gilchrist County, which can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

AUGUST

People from Dixie, Levy and Gilchrist counties joined in a Lunch And Learn program thanks

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to the Levy County Prevention Coalition, the Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition, Florida Lutheran Services, and the sheriffs of Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy counties.

This great event held at the ForVets Lodge in the Otter Springs Park and Campground can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

SEPTEMBER

The UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station opening in Cedar Key was very significant in September.

It can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

OCTOBER

A very big car show in Gilchrist County in October includes a story, photos and video in the archive.

It can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

Just as a reminder, the archive includes many stories – for instance just in October of 2017, the short list shows **Bronson Trunk or Treat; Elvis seen in Inglis; Fox Squirrel Collects; U Pick Lane From The Air; Ride To Provide keeps evolving; American Sign Language; 2017 Seafood Festival Parade provides fun for all; Levy County Food Service employees exhibit; Professionals Endorse Creating Wills; WMHS hosts JROTC sports event; Trenton Tigers beat; Cedar Key Annual Seafood; Big Bend Shellfish Trail dedicated; Levy County couple earns top annual state honors; Cross City Train Depot; Sheriffs Thank Senator; Students share insight from trips at CFEC Annual Meeting; People enjoy Peanut Festival in Williston; Legislators are shown appreciation; State lawmakers visit Cross City and Trenton; Bell Middle School; Dr. Lindo returns to RGH;** and other stories.

NOVEMBER

The annual chili event in southern Levy County was covered. Click [HERE](#) to see that.

Throughout the school year, the JROTC units in the three counties are all helping students.

The Bell High School JROTC unit has been the best about sharing its news.

Click [HERE](#) to see just one of those stories.

DECEMBER

All of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court judges continued to perform their very heavy duties with honor, as did all of the County Court judges in this circuit and even all 67 counties and 20 circuits of Florida.

Here is one story, photos and video from two people being sentenced by Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Mark W. Moseley on Wednesday afternoon (Dec. 13).

Click [HERE](#) to see two men sentenced, and the judge explaining why they are going to prison for a period of time.

There are procedures for journalists to be able to cover court proceedings, and it is truly with great appreciation that HardisonInk.com enjoyed the ability to cover this aspect of these cases.

In this next story, the woman who became the provost of the CF Levy Campus – Holly McGlashan – opens the first-ever GED graduation conducted at the new campus, when she still had her previous title.

Click [HERE](#) to see that story.

There were many, many other stories, photos and videos from 2017.

Please visit the archive, which goes back to October of 2015.

When my friend and web designer Bill Kilborn died in October of 2015, there was no loss of daily news coverage thanks to him helping me in his final days so that there could be a relatively smooth transition to the support, which then would be by my new friends at Nature Coast Web

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However, we did lose the place where a lot of material was archived from the first years of HardisonInk.com, and there were some operational revisions that led to me asking the lovely and talented Sharon Hardison to take over the archival duties.

In any event, this website is going into 2018 with a positive outlook toward the future. And when our ad salesman – Jeff M. Hardison – explains how your business or other interest can benefit from advertising on HardisonInk.com, please buy an ad.

In fact, you may want to take the initiative and call him at 352-493-9950 or send an email to hardisonink@gmail.com to say which ad you want to buy for the year. They cost \$500, \$750, \$1,000; \$1,500 or \$2,000 for the year – including the big banner ad or ads on all seven pages.