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## BHS Wins: Girls Inspire



**The five young ladies who inspired Gilchrist County Rotarians on Monday are (from left) Juliana Whiting, Jillian Cassube, Jenna Holley, Jillian Morgan and Kylee Barry.**

### **Story and Photos**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 26, 2018 at 8:18 p.m.**

**TRENTON** -- Rotarians all over the world can smile a little more because the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County was inspired Monday afternoon (Nov. 26), thanks to a visit by Bell High School Lady Bulldogs Head Varsity Volleyball Coach Lisa Barry and the five Lady Bulldogs Varsity Volleyball Team members she brought with her to the meeting at the Trenton Woman's Club.

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**Gilchrist County Rotary Club Public Relations and Program Support Chair Holly Creel (left) stands with Dana Nicholson before the meeting begins. Creel has proposed that Nicholson be a member of this club. There was a Board meeting after the regular meeting to discuss the potential new members being proposed.**



**After the meeting, a group shot was available. Seen here are (from left) Bell High School Lady Bulldogs Varsity Volleyball Head Coach Lisa Barry, Kylee Barry Jillian Cassube, Juliana Whiting, Jillian Morgan, Jenna Holley, Drue Barry (Lisa's husband and Kylee's Dad) and Gilchrist County Rotary Club President Aaron Haynes.**

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## The Cake!

As Rotary District 6940 Governor John Medina told these Rotarians earlier in the year, Rotary International President Barry Rassin chose “Be The Inspiration” as the theme for the 2018-2019 Rotary Year.

Medina said this is a great way to encourage Rotarians to “focus on humanitarian service, support and strengthening of clubs, and to inspire families to be great servant leaders.”

Watching and listening to Coach Barry, and seeing and hearing the young ladies share their insight is bound to have inspired the Gilchrist County Rotary Club members and all of their guests.

In fact, the whole meeting on Monday heralded another banner day for this club. The room was full of people.

Gilchrist County Rotary Club Sergeant-At-Arms Damon Leggett exercised the most efficient method for fine assessment ever witnessed by those who watch Rotarians in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

“If you were late or missed a meeting,” Leggett said, “come on up and bring a dollar.”

A number of members sauntered to the front of the room, dollars in hand.

Leggett brought in more cash money from all of the Gator fans, because the Gators beat the Seminoles. Leggett called for the payment of happy dollars. Another inventive method this sergeant-at-arms found to tap his fellow Rotarians was to call for a dollar if there was a Christmas tree already up at their homes.

Even before the start of the meeting, it seemed to be foretold that it would be another winner of an afternoon. Dr. Andrew Nguyen played a few Christmas tunes on the piano, making the spirit bright in the meeting room before the first bell was sounded by Gilchrist Rotary President Aaron Haynes.

Chef Jason Fuchs of Springwater Events prepared his high quality of food as he provided members and guests with buffet-style fried chicken sandwiches with assorted condiments and sauces, French fries, three-bean salad, chocolate and vanilla cake, and sweet and unsweetened tea.

Fuchs is well-known for consistently providing a very tasty meal, although sometimes it seems he even outdoes himself.

And while the cake of the day was decorated in honor of the BHS Volleyball Team, the actual dessert of the meeting was the presentation from Coach Barry and some of her players.

Gilchrist County Rotary Club Public Relations and Program Support Chair Holly Creel introduced Coach Barry.

Barry is in her sixth year as the head coach of volleyball at BHS, Creel said. The coach is herself a graduate of Bell High School, Creel said, and she has worked in the Gilchrist

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County School District for almost 20 years so far.

The BHS Lady Bulldogs Varsity Volleyball Team lost the Nov. 16 playoff match against Sneads by a score of 3-0.

Before falling to the Sneads High School Lady Pirates in the Championship game, the BHS Lady Bulldogs beat the Trenton Lady Tigers 3-2 in the FHSAA Semi-Finals.

This game between the Lady Pirates of Sneads (Franklin County) and the Lady Bulldogs of Bell (Gilchrist County) was final game of the 2018 Florida High School Athletic Association Girls Volleyball State Championships - Class 1A Tournament. The Pirates are the state champs this year for FHSAA Class 1A Volleyball.

The 14 members of the BHS Lady Bulldogs Varsity Volleyball Team are Taria Liles (#2), a sophomore; Hailey Pope (#4), a junior; Aubrey Brown (#5), a junior; Jillian Cassube (#6), a junior; Melonie Piechocki (#7), a sophomore; Michelle Hellig (#9), a freshman; Jillian Morgan (#10), a senior; Kylee Barry (#11), a senior; Jenna Holley (#13), a senior; Emma Hutto (#14), a freshman; Maddy Sapp (#19), a sophomore; Shelby Waddle (#22), a sophomore; Juliana Whiting (#24), a senior; and Taylor Tompkins (#44), a freshman.

As the coach began her presentation to the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County, she said believes it is important to recognize all school athletes – and especially the female athletes.

Coach Barry feels that women should learn to rely on each other and to feel strong together, and to support each other, she said. Coach Barry tries to instill this in the team members.

And while she teaches them the value of good sportsmanship and competition, Coach Barry simultaneously imparts in them that they do not need to compete all of the time.

She wants to teach them that they are great competitors, but as they become older, they do not need to compete with each other.

“Women can learn to support and respect one another,” Coach Barry said.

The team earned a 26-4 win-loss record this season, she said. This is the best record for a team in BHS history, the coach said as far as she is aware.

This season’s team, she said, is an amazing group of kids. The support they have seen from the community, the coach said, was far above the level they had anticipated. A couple of the players mentioned they were moved by the turnout by the people of Bell to show support, especially in the game against Trenton.

Coach Barry told the Rotarians that BHS is 90 years old this year, and while the BHS Varsity Volleyball Team has gone to the finals each of the six years she has coached it, this was the first year the team went to play for the State Class 1A Championship.

There have been many great athletes who walked the halls of Bell High School, she said, even some who were better than the five players she brought on Monday afternoon.

This historic team, though, reached a point never before attained, she added.

“I think this is a testament to their real power,” Coach Barry said. “They complement each other really well.”

The stats from BHS over 90 years shows that this team had everything especially required to make the group complete.

Bell High School has made it to The Final Four several years, she said, but this was the first time a team made it to the Championship Game.

The coach said she feels blessed to have the team that made it to that point, and

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Coach Barry feels blessed that her daughter (Kylee Barry) made it to the Championship Game in her senior year.

The coach said she intends to have a sustainable continuing strong volleyball program at BHS. There are about 40 to 45 girls in grades six through 12 that participate. The BHS Junior Varsity Volleyball Team has only lost one game in the past two years, the coach said.

“I think it’s important to win,” she said. “If you do anything, if you play any sport, someone is going to have to win. It may as well be you.”

The coach said she knows no player wins every time, but it should be a goal.

The coach spoke about the outstanding records her five players made during the past year.

Jillian Cassube had the highest record kills in the 2018 FHSAA Class 1A – 436 kills. A kill is a spike that cannot be returned, giving the attacking team a point or a sideout.

Cassube transferred to BHS this year.

When she spoke, she said the single most important thing she learned from the past season was that she could be on a team where everyone loves each other, rather than fighting among each other like cats and dogs.

Cassube was the lone junior who joined the four seniors to be recognized at the Rotary Club meeting.

Jenna Holley, Coach Barry said, has played on the volleyball team since sixth grade. She was second in the FHSAA Class 1A with 464 digs. The dig in volleyball is a forearm pass to control the ball in preparation for return. It is usually the team's first touch of the ball after the opposition has put it over the net.

Jillian Morgan, the coach said, was noticed by the coach when Morgan was in the ninth grade and was a cheerleader. The coach saw the athleticism in this student, and she felt she would excel more as a volleyball player than as a cheerleader.

The coach drafted Morgan to the volleyball team from the cheerleading in her sophomore year. This year, Morgan had 304 kills, and 149 digs. The coach added that Morgan was among the most well-rounded players she has ever coached.

Juliana “Jewels” Whiting had almost 200 kills this year, Coach Barry said. In her career, Whiting had almost 150 blocks, the coach added. A block in volleyball is when one team makes a move trying to get the ball over the net and the other team reaches up and blocks the ball from coming onto their side.

Kylee Barry, Coach Barry said, is difficult to talk about, because she is her daughter. She is among the players on the team who is a setter, the coach said.

Kylee is 5-foot, three-inches tall. While this may seem short for a volleyball player, “She plays a lot bigger than she is,” the coach said.

Kylee Barry led the 2018 FHSAA Volleyball Class 1A in sets. In the game of volleyball, the set is a maneuver in which a player quickly makes contact with the ball in order to set up a spike for another player.

The coach’s daughter also led the 2018 FHSAA Volleyball Class 1A in aces. An ace in volleyball occurs when a person serves the ball, and it either lands in bounds on the opponent's side of the court or is not legally returned over the net. The serving team is awarded a point for an ace.

In her career, Kylee has had 345 kills, the coach said.

Not only are these five volleyball players great at their sport, but the coach said cumulative grade point average of the five is about 3.8 – where 4.0 is an “A” and 3.0 is a

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“B.”

The coach said she does not believe any of them earned a “C” on their report card, but if they did, they would remember it because it would be “that one ‘C’” that cannot be forgotten.

Two of these players work full-time jobs as well as excelling in academics and sports, the coach said. These students are active in the Student Government Association and other activities at BHS, she said.

A couple of the students shared that they enjoyed being introduced to yoga, as well as to meditation by their coach this season. And while two of these players apparently liked singing before home games, and their teammates tolerated it, that may be one of those things that athletes hang onto – because they won.

Coach Barry shared with listeners that without her prompting them, each one of these young athletes always put others before themselves.

This selfless spirit, to give without measure -- to care for the welfare of others -- is noticed in the best scholars and the truly greatest athletes.

Altruism rather than selfishness is an admirable virtue, regardless of what some money-worshipping people may say.

Rotarians know the concept of “service before self” is an idea to remember to practice daily.

“They are good ambassadors for their school,” the coach said of the girls on her volleyball teams.

And so, these five ambassadors from BHS were inspirational for the members and guests who attended the Monday afternoon meeting of the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County.