

# metro

**SAVE HAWKEYE**  
He's on doggy death row



Cold Noses, B-3



**good news**  
cindy holifield

# Man shot ID'd as gang member

Keith Lawrence Crowder wounded by officer's 2 shots at traffic stop

By Dana Treen & Dan Scanlan  
The Times-Union

Police identified the man shot by a Jacksonville police officer just before 9 p.m. Thursday night on West 32nd Street as Keith Lawrence Crowder, 24, a member of the Moncrief Thugs gang, who goes by the nickname "Moncrief Snoop Hitman Jr." according to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

He remains in serious, life-threatening condition after he was shot twice in the chest at a traffic stop, Undersheriff Pat Ivey said.

Ivey said Crowder kept driving after the officer got behind him, finally stopping after the patrol car's air horn was used. But it wasn't the air horn that caused him to stop, Ivey said.

"He had connections to the house that he stopped next to," he said. "This wasn't a pursuit by any stretch. But he had ample opportunity to stop prior to

when he did."

Crowder got out of the car and did not obey Officer Serge Paul's commands to get back in the car.

"Something occurred which the officer discharged his firearm twice," Ivey said. Paul, a nine-year member of the Sheriff's Office, does not have to make a statement under rules guarding his legal rights.

Paul provided first aid to Crowder, Ivey said.

Ivey said he is not aware what, if anything, the officers who arrived at the scene behind Paul observed.

"I have not been privileged to everything in the witness officers' statement at his point," he said.

A gun and drugs were found when Crowder's car was searched.

Evidence in the case, including the officer's gun and shell casings, will be processed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which is a standard procedure. The

Department of Law Enforcement is not investigating any other part of the case.

The stop was similar to a Clay County stop of Crowder in January.

Then, he was arrested on charges of carrying a concealed firearm and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, according to the Clay County Clerk of Court.

He was out on bond on those charges Thursday.

Paul normally patrols Jacksonville's Northside, but was working an overtime shift with the Sheriff's Office's Violent Crime Reduction Initiative, Ivey said.

The officers spotted Crowder when he was speeding and spinning tires past.

Ivey said Paul's patrol car and Crowder's car were about 20 feet apart when the shooting occurred. Paul has not been involved in a previous police shooting.

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This photo shows Keith Lawrence Crowder with a gun similar to what police found in his car Thursday.

# MS Society awards 3 with scholarships

Area scholarship winners for 2016 have been announced by the North Florida Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The scholarship program helps students affected by multiple sclerosis pursue a college or technical school education. The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and recipients are eligible to reapply each year to be considered for a future award.

**Lisa Mullis** was diagnosed with MS in 2008. She is a dental office manager and developed an interest in health and fitness, which inspired her to further her education and pursue her passion. She plans to graduate from the University of North Florida in the spring of 2017 with a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics. She is a two-time recipient of the award.



Mullis

**Robert Kemple**, a high school senior at Mandarin High School, assumed

more responsibilities when his mother was diagnosed with MS in 2003. He and his family had to adapt to a different lifestyle but they are making the most of it.

"My mom would do anything for me, even with her MS, and I have that same feeling towards her," said Robert. "She may struggle with walking or fatigue easily, but in my mind, she is still a perfect mother that I have come to love and respect."

**Khalil Bogarty**, a junior at the University of South Alabama, is a computer engineering student from

Jacksonville and three-time recipient of the award. His MS makes it difficult to attend classes and complete assignments, but he is thankful for the opportunities the scholarship has given him. He says the scholarship has helped to lower the stress of paying for his college tuition and textbooks.

Scholarship information for 2017-18 will be available Oct. 1, 2017. For more information, call (800) 344-4867 or go to nationalMSSociety.org/scholarship.

Here's more good news:

■ Take Steps Jacksonville, an event held recently to benefit The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, raised \$50,500. The foundation's goal is to find a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and to improve the lives of children and adults affected by these diseases. The 2017 walk will be

GOOD NEWS continues on B-3

# Curry: Not for using tax revenue to borrow

At town hall, mayor says that's not his plan but won't rule it out

By David Bauerlein  
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Mayor Lenny Curry is telling voters that he doesn't favor borrowing against the revenue from a proposed half-cent sales tax as a way to alleviate pressure on the city budget.

The half-cent sales tax to help pay down the city's massive pension debt would start after 2030 when the existing half-cent sales tax for the Better Jacksonville Plan expires.

If voters approve the sales tax on Aug. 30, one option would be for Jacksonville to borrow money to help pay the city's annual pension costs and then repay that debt when the pension sales tax begins.

Curry said at a Thursday night town hall meeting he is "not inclined" to use that option, though he didn't categorically rule it out.

"I am here to tell you tonight that I am not inclined to borrow," Curry told a standing-room-only crowd at the Southeast branch library. "Now, I will not take a tool out of my toolbox. Politicians often make these pledges they can't meet. I think it would be irresponsible to pull a tool out of the toolbox, but I'll stand here before you tonight and tell you I am not inclined to borrow against this revenue."

Even without borrowing, Curry said, an actuarial report set for release next week will show the city can reduce its annual pension contribution costs by \$40 million by spreading the paydown of its pension debt over a longer period of time. He said that will help offset the increas-

PENSION continues on B-3

# 'Dream' puppy joins the family



Bob.Self@jacksonville.com

Rue Andeer of Ponte Vedra Beach thought she and her family were visiting Dreams Come True of Jacksonville for a "Frozen" princess party on Friday. Then a surprise "driver" sat down at the wheel of her toy car: a Bernedoodle puppy named Bolt. Rue, 3, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in October. Bolt, bred and trained in Colorado, came with toys and supplies to get Rue and her family started with their new pet, a hybrid of poodle and Bernese mountain dog.

Daily Editor Scott Butler · (904) 359-4566 · scott.butler@jacksonville.com

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## GOOD NEWS

Continued from B-1

the SeaWalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach on April 22. Plans are being made to make it the best beach party ever. For more information, call (904) 553-9743 or email gpeace@ccfa.org.

■ **Downtown Ecumenical Services Council** held The Great Electric Emergency recently with the goal of raising \$15,000.

They almost doubled their expectations and raised \$28,000. This allowed them the purchase of an item deemed for the future, a commercial refrigerator to store fresh food received from Farm Share to give to families in need.

■ **John Samuels Lingg**, 15, achieved the Boy Scouts' highest honor and earned the rank of Eagle Scout recently. He is a member of Troop 146 at Keystone United Methodist Church. For his Eagle project, he provided a cooking grill and built a campfire ring for Montgomery Presbyterian Camp and Center in Starke, to allow a safe outdoor cooking environment for staff and campers.

John, a sophomore at Q.I. Roberts Junior/Senior High School, is the son of **Howard and Margaret Lingg** of Keystone Heights.

■ **The Iwakura High School lacrosse team** from Tokyo was in town recently for four days of lacrosse and a friendship exchange. According to **Randy Evans**, chairman of Lighthouse Lacrosse Foundation in Jacksonville, the boys stayed in homes of area lacrosse players while they were in town.

They enjoyed a day on the beach, had matches against the Bolles, Episcopal and Ponte Vedra teams, toured the Jaguars facilities and other area venues, and got some shopping in before ending with a lacrosse and sayonara party. Next year they hope to have a Jacksonville group visit them in Japan.

Have good news? Send items to [goodnews@jacksonville.com](mailto:goodnews@jacksonville.com). You can fax them to (904) 359-4478 or mail them to **The Florida Times-Union, P.O. Box 1949, Jacksonville, FL 32231. cindy.holfield@jacksonville.com, (904) 359-4295.**

## PENSION

Continued from B-1

creasing pension payments the city faces in the years ahead.

"There will be budget relief," he said.

## COMPARISONS TO DETROIT

The half-cent sales tax would help the city pay down its massive \$2.85 billion pension debt for its three pension plans: police and firefighter, general employees and corrections officers.

Curry has said the cost of paying down that debt is "eating alive" the city's budget, making it impossible to keep up with basic needs such as public safety and infrastructure. **This year's cost is \$260 million and it will rise to \$280 million next year.** JEA, the city-owned utility, pays a portion of the tab for its employees.

Curry routinely compares Jacksonville to Detroit, which declared municipal bankruptcy, by saying Jacksonville's budget constraints are putting it on the same road as the Motor City. But in previous speeches about the half-cent sales tax, Curry had not spelled out how the city would gain any financial benefits before the levy begins.

At the town hall hosted Thursday by City Councilman **Danny Becton**, Curry said that budget relief in

## Cold Noses Pets of the Week

Cold Noses, the Times-Union's weekly pet column, features pets available for adoption at local government-run shelters. For more information go to [jacksonville.com/coldnoses](http://jacksonville.com/coldnoses).



**Hawkeye** is a 9-month-old male bulldog mix (ID no. 5558-1). He is sweet, happy and loves to play. But he is scheduled to be euthanized Monday morning because of his extended stay at a crowded shelter, along with a playful 2-year-old male Labrador mix (ID no. 5478-1) named **Chewy**. Meet them at Putnam County Animal Services, 174 County Landfill Road, Palatka. Hours: 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10 a.m.-noon Friday. Regular fees: males, \$75 (voucher for neuter, rabies and tag included); females, \$85 (voucher for spay, rabies and tag included). Cash or check only. (386) 329-0396 option #1, [animalcontrol@putnam-fl.com](mailto:animalcontrol@putnam-fl.com); [putpets.com](http://putpets.com).

**Chaos** is a 7-year-old male brindle boxer mix. He acts like a puppy and loves his ball. He is neutered, microchipped and current on shots. Meet him at Clay County Animal Care and Control, 3984 Florida 16 W., Green Cove Springs. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Animals are also available at the Fleming Island Adoption Center, 1809-1 Town Center Blvd. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday. (904) 269-6342. [bit.ly/1dBGyEN](http://bit.ly/1dBGyEN).

**Forest** is a 1-year-old male cat. He loves to stretch out his paws and snuggle. Meet him at St. Johns County Pet Center, 130 N. Stratton Road, St. Augustine. Hours: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Gates close at 4 p.m. Saturday. St. Johns cats are two for the price of one - \$15 for all seniors, \$20 for other males and females. Fees include spay/neuter, rabies vaccination and shots. (904) 209-6190. [bit.ly/1WeOg83](http://bit.ly/1WeOg83).

**Cici** is a 4-year-old female hound mix. She is sweet, loves people and gets along with other dogs. She is spayed and will have a microchip, rabies vaccine and vaccinations. She has heartworms, but financial help is available for treatment. Meet her at Nassau County Animal Services, 86078 License Road, Fernandina Beach. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. Fees vary. (904) 530-6150. [bit.ly/1Zb7qfu](http://bit.ly/1Zb7qfu).

Also at the Putnam center is **Dallas**, a 3-year-old male bulldog mix (ID no.5654-1). He is loving and happy and would do best as a household's only pet.

At the Jacksonville center is **Rusty**, a 1½-year-old male American pit bull terrier. He is sweet, neutered, microchipped and current on vaccinations, including rabies.

At the Clay center is longtime **Layla**, a 4-year-old female Labrador retriever and greyhound mix. She loves the water and would love a home with a big fenced yard to run and play. She is spayed, microchipped and current on shots.

At the Nassau center is **Tonto**, a 2-month-old male domestic shorthair cat. All Nassau kittens come spayed or neutered, microchipped and vaccinated for \$9.

**Beth Reese Cravey: (904) 359-4109**

the coming years is not the primary reason for the tax.

"What I'm suggesting to you is if we got zero budget relief from this solution, which isn't the case, but if we got zero, I would still pursue this because it's my responsibility [and] it's incumbent on me to stop this financial crisis and not leave it to the next generation," he said.

## ACTUARIAL REPORT EXPECTED

The release of the actuarial report by Milliman, a firm that has worked with the city for several years, will go a long way toward quantifying the scale of the financial challenge. The report will project the future cost of annual pension contributions if the city sticks to its current funding schedule and show how many years it would take the city to fully fund the pension plans' obligations for pension benefits.

The report also will show the level of annual contributions that would be needed if the city opted to spread the pension pay-down over a longer period. Instead of a 24-year pay-down, the city would do so over 30 years, Curry said.

Extending the payment period would be akin to refinancing a home mortgage over a longer period. It can reduce the annual payments, but in the long run, the total cost is higher.

The pension tax would continue to 2060 or whenever the pension plans are



**Lulu** is a 10-year-old female domestic shorthair calico cat. She is a bundle of joy, spayed, microchipped and is current on vaccinations, including rabies. Meet her at Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services, 2020 Forest St. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Adoptions are \$20 through Thursday. Also, anyone who fosters underage kittens until they are old enough to be spayed or neutered gets free adoptions, with medical and other kitten supplies needed during the foster period supplied by the shelter. (904) 630-2489. [coj.net/pets](http://coj.net/pets).

# New commander for Valiant

## Crew of Coast Guard cutter, back from deployment, bids a farewell

By Dan Scanlan  
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Coast Guard Cutter Valiant is back home in Mayport after a six-week deployment in support of Operation Southeast Watch and its repatriation of Cuban and Haitian migrants found floating in the Florida Straits.

As the 210-foot Medium Endurance Cutter docked, its 75-member crew said bon voyage to their commanding officer, who relinquishes command in a July ceremony at Mayport Naval Station.

Cmdr. Adam A. Chamie says farewell after his ship handled search and rescue, law enforcement, environmental protection and national defense operations in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, most re-

cently with the Haitian Coast Guard to repatriate 12 migrants.

"It has been a true honor to serve alongside the dedicated men and women on Valiant," he said. "I've never served with a harder working and more devoted group of shipmates. Over the past two years, their accomplishments and contributions to the Coast Guard and our nation have been, stellar, nothing short of spectacular."

The Valiant is the largest Coast Guard cutter in North Florida, built in 1967 as the seventh of 16 cutters of her class. Starting its mission with 24 years in Galveston, Texas, it received a mid-life overhaul in 1991, then was recommissioned in 1994 and was home-ported in Miami before its move to Mayport.

In the past year, Valiant interdicted 13 ships, seized 8.7 tons of cocaine and other contraband valued together at \$233 million, and detained 39 people on smuggling charges, the Coast Guard said.

During the recent Operation Southeast Watch, the crew worked alongside interagency and international partners to care for 172 Cuban and Haitian migrants found in the Florida Straits. That was part of a patrol to intercept people trying to illegally enter the United States and discourage migrants in overloaded Cuban and Haitian ships from taking to sea.

After almost 50 years at sea, the Valiant and 26 other sister ships are slated for replacement by a new class of vessels called Offshore Patrol Cutters.

For more about the Valiant, visit [uscg.mil/lantar-ear/cgcValiant](http://uscg.mil/lantar-ear/cgcValiant).

**Dan Scanlan: (904) 359-4549**

# Rood resigns from Port board

## Former ambassador to the Bahamas was appointed by mayor

By Sebastian Kitchen  
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John Rood, the former ambassador to the Bahamas named to the Jacksonville Port Authority board in October, has resigned from that post following his appointment to the Florida Prepaid College Board.

Rood, founder and chairman of the Vestcor Companies Inc., was appointed to the port board by Mayor Lenny Curry, who thanked him Friday for serving.

"Ambassador Rood has

been a true visionary during his time on the JaxPort board of directors and I thank him for his leadership and commitment to Jacksonville," Curry said. "I know that his professional background, success as one of our city's top leaders and commitment to education will serve him well in his new role on the Florida Prepaid College Board."

Rood sent his resignation letter to Curry Thursday, saying his new position "prohibits me from dual service."

President George W. Bush appointed Rood U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas, where he served from 2004 to 2007. He has also served as chairman of the Florida Fish and Wild-

life Conservation Commission, as co-chairman of the Jacksonville Journey Committee, and on the Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute Board of Advisors.

Vestcor, which Rood founded in 1983, focuses on brokerage of multifamily properties, real estate investments, development and construction.

Rood said he has mixed emotions about leaving the port board.

"Education has long been a passion of mine and this is an exciting opportunity to serve an organization that does so much to make higher education possible for so many," he said.

**Sebastian Kitchen: (904) 359-4161**

## Nassau County

# GOP primaries for several offices

By Dan Scanlan  
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YULEE | Nassau County's school superintendent race is a busy one, with a state lawmaker facing off against another candidate in the Aug. 30 Republican primary as a Libertarian candidate waits in the November wings.

Meanwhile, a Republican running in the primary against the incumbent tax collector for his seat just received a sharp rebuke from the State Attorney's Office about "reckless disregard of the truth."

The final roster of candidates for the Republican primary were set after they officially qualified to run by a noon Friday deadline.

The tax collector primary pits Republicans Carlos E. Slay against incumbent John M. Drew, as write-in candidate John L. McDowell awaits the winner in the general election in November.

Slay had filed two Florida Ethics Commission complaints about Drew after reviewing tax collector office records for travel, conferences and credit card use authorized by him. In a news release from him after the second request, he said that some of the expenses "appear too excessive."

But a June 7 State Attorney's Office letter to him said those complaints "have been shown to be inaccurate, generally without merit or otherwise made with reckless disregard of the truth."

School Superintendent John Ruis isn't seeking reelection after two decades in office. So the primary pits Rep. Janet H. Adkins against fellow Republican Kathy Knight Burns, with Libertarian Cheryl Reynolds James facing the winner in November.

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller John Crawford also has a Republican primary competitor in current District

5 commissioner Walter Boatright. That leaves that commission seat open, so Republicans Klynt A. Farmer, Justin M. Taylor and Joe Zimmerman are running in the primary, with write-in candidate Don Tanner in the general election.

Other contested Nassau County primaries:

■ County Commissioner District 3 Republicans Donald P. Edwards and Tim Peak.

■ School Board District 5, Tyrone Blue and Jonathan Petree, a non-partisan race in the primary ballot.

Sheriff, property appraiser, District 1 County Commission and School Board District 2 and 4 are uncontested. Early primary voting runs from Aug. 19 to 27. The general election is Nov. 8, with early voting for its races from Oct. 24 to Nov. 5.

**Dan Scanlan: (904) 359-4549**

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