

# FROM PAGE 1



COURTESY PHOTO

JP White (right) sits with his newly found brother, Andrew, and his grandmother during his summer visit in 1982.

## YEARS

From page 1

"But he was always John to his mother."

But the family to paradise wasn't to be. A few years after JP's birth, Patrick and Kay's marriage ended.

It wasn't long after that the young father ran into trouble visiting his son.

"For reasons known only to Kay, she didn't want me to see my son," Patrick said. "She moved very frequently without telling me where, and soon I couldn't find her at all."

So after only three happy years of fatherhood, Patrick watched his son drift away into a virtual black hole. Though he left a solid trail to ensure Kay could easily find him, the young dad never heard from his former wife or the little boy.

"It was an emptiness that couldn't be filled and a pain that wouldn't go away," he said.

For young JP, his childhood blossomed without much incident — no stolen youth, no dejected teenager rebelling against society in retaliation for his lack of a father. But his life wasn't exactly complete, either.

Kay raised JP immersed in his Hawaiian roots, which involved a plethora of family gatherings.

"Everyone becomes a mom, dad, sister, brother, aunt, uncle and so on," JP said. "This is why I kept my dad's fire alive all these years. He is my only father, and I have always loved him."

And as time went on, Kay absorbed the role of both parents in JP's life.

"She always made sure I was well taken care of," he said. "As for me not having a father figure around, I adjusted well, and my mom became my father figure, so to speak."

But that didn't mean that JP escaped the jaded emotions that so often come hand-in-hand with parental divorce. The young boy definitely had moments where he seethed with anger at his father for not being in his life.

"I hated the fact that all of my friends had dads except me," he said.

While Patrick spent the years after JP's disappearance into oblivion searching for his lost son, the young boy didn't have much of an avenue to conduct any sort of man hunt except through his mother. And she wasn't much help.

"My mom never spoke of him, and when I asked, she didn't reveal too much information," JP said.

JP's real search began in 1982 when he was 13 years old.

Patrick moved to the East Coast a few years after the divorce and settled in the High Point-Thomsville area. In 1982, about five years after relocating in North Carolina, Kay contacted him.

She told him she was living in Southern California and asked if he wanted to take his son for the summer.

"Is the pope Catholic or what?" Patrick said. "Of course I wanted to see him!"

Kay then told the just-turned teenager that she had heard from his father and asked if he wanted to spend the summer in North Carolina.

"I said yes, jumping up and down, and could not wait," JP said.

JP landed in the Missouri airport and wandered through the terminal, not sure what his father looked like. He eventually roamed by baggage claim and a little boy came up to him asking if he was JP.

A little unsure, JP answered affirmative, and the younger boy responded: "I am your brother."

JP was astounded — growing up as a single child he had always yearned for the company of a sibling, and here one came walking up to him in the middle of an airport.

"I never knew I had a brother," JP said. "He's my half brother, but still, half, I don't even think about it. He's my brother."

Then came Patrick, JP's only-seen-in-pictures father.

"It was so emotional but so natural for me to hold him," JP said. "The whole summer was spent having lots of fun with my new brother and our dad. I have a lot of good memories of that summer. I can't explain the feelings from that time. It was heaven-sent for sure."

Patrick was intent on making the most of his summer with JP. The teenager had just entered

the skateboarding phase and loved Hot Wheels.

"I loaded him up with Hot Wheels and also built him a model airplane — rubber band propulsion — that he flew around the yard," Patrick said. "JP kept the Hot Wheels and model airplane for years, through countless moves, as a reminder of his dad."

The summer days wound down, the sun set earlier and the nights turned to a brisker feel than the muggy heat of July. Patrick begged Kay to keep in touch so he could maintain contact with his son.

Kay assured him that she would, that she was getting married and moving to Coos Bay, Ore., and she would send him their address and phone number as soon as she did.

The information never came. Kay disappeared again into oblivion, taking JP along with her.

"Over the years, thanks to the computer, I tried to find him, but there were so many places to look that it became baffling for me," Patrick said. "I harbor Kay no ill will. I put that aside long ago so I could have some peace."

JP, meanwhile, returned home elated that his father was back in his life. But that, too, came to an end. Over the years he argued with his mother, attempting to coax her into helping him find Patrick. JP says Kay was hurt badly by the divorce and avoided any questions he posed.

"It was hard not getting any feedback from my mom, but Hawaiians take Aloha seriously," JP said. "She would never want to speak of him, so it was hard trying to learn anything about my father. As time passed, his name never came up, but I never forgot about him."

Staff Writer Erin Wiltgen can be reached at 888-3576 or at [newsdesk@twillettimes.com](mailto:newsdesk@twillettimes.com).

## GUILTY

From page 1

"Obviously, this is a compromised plea based upon the facts of the case," Davidson County Assistant District Attorney Greg Brown said. "His lawyer obviously counseled him and the determination to take it was that of the defendant. [Lemmond] has now been adjudicated for second degree murder of the child."

Davidson County Sheriff's Office detectives, with assistance from the Union County Sheriff's Office, arrested Lemmond in February following a three-month long investigation of Cowell's death. An indictment filed in February alleged that Lemmond "unlawfully and willfully did kill and murder Lilly Grace Cowell" by causing "acute subdural hemorrhage, acute subarachnoid hemorrhage and multiple retinal hemorrhages of the optic nerve." The incident occurred at 172 Meadow Creek Drive, Apartment 19, in Lexington where Lemmond claimed a lamp fell on the child's head, but an autopsy found Cowell's injuries did not match the defendant's version of what happened.

Once the Office of the Chief Medical

Examiner in Chapel Hill completed the autopsy, Lemmond was charged with first degree murder and felony child abuse inflicting bodily injury.

"We had to wait to see what the forensic pathology report showed," said Brown. "The pathology report showed a different cause of death than the defendant suggested. He indicated the child knocked a lamp off a toy chest that fell onto the child's forehead. The autopsy showed different injuries on different parts of the head like traumatic brain injuries at multiple locations consistent with rapid acceleration and deceleration that would be the typical shaken baby type of activity. That was totally different from what [Lemmond] suggested may have caused the demise of the child."

Cowell's mother left her child in Lemmond's care so she go to the movies in Asheville. Lemmond is not the girl's father, but Brown said he met Lilly's biological dad Wednesday at the hearing. Brown said the father hadn't been involved in the child's life but did appear for the plea.

"He shook my hand at the end of the day," Brown said.

The child abuse charge against Lemmond was dropped.

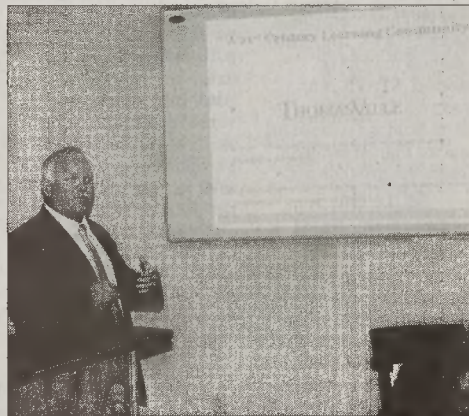
## RESULTS

From page 1

proved in seven of eight subjects, with all but two improving by double-digits. Algebra II and Geometry saw the biggest gains with Physical Science reporting the lone decrease of 4.4 percent. Civics was the lone subject at THS that failed to meet expected growth.

"Those numbers are not where we want them to be," TCS Superintendent Keith Tobin said. "We want all of our students to be at grade level and to work hard to get there. The growth we have made the last years has been pretty significant. Our folks have worked really hard. When you look at how our students are progressing from year to year, there's some pretty significant growth and I'm very proud of that."

After seeing two city schools — Liberty Drive Elementary and Thomsville Middle School — make AYP last year, TCS had none make for the 2009-10 calendar. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruc-



TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

TCS Superintendent Keith Tobin unveils the new systems logo during Tuesday's meeting.

tion is expected to certify the results by the end of July.

In other business:

- Kevin Leake, a social studies teacher, was named the assistant principal at Thomsville Middle School.

- "I'm excited about the opportunity," Leake said.

- TCS voted to keep Jeff Kirkland as school board chairperson and Resa Raulston as school board vice chairperson.

- Board members approved a Title I applica-


tion for the upcoming school year. Mike Ingram, TCS' technology director, said this year's allocation of funds could equal about \$50 more per student over last year.

- Tobin unveiled TCS' new logo, which features the outline of a sun and three rays of sunshine, replacing the traditional school house.

Staff Writer Eliot Duke can be reached at 888-3578, or [duke@twillettimes.com](mailto:duke@twillettimes.com).

## Your Town. Your Times.

Subscribe today!  
888-3511



**Kevin H White, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor

1152 Randolph Street Suite C  
Thomasville, NC 27360  
336-472-3527

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) Member since

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**Greenwood Baptist Church**  
(1010 Lexington Ave., Thomasville)

presents

*The Kingsmen Quartet*



**July 18th, 2010**  
Doors open at 5pm, concert starts at 6pm  
\*A love offering will be taken

For more info visit website or call the church office  
[www.gbcthomsville.com](http://www.gbcthomsville.com) • 336-472-7314

**CELEBRATING 23 YEARS SERVING THOMASVILLE**



*Rachel, Owner; Rosemary, Stylist (formerly of Great Clips); Karen, Stylist*

**WALK-INS WELCOME**

**Haircuts \$10**

**\$5 OFF**  
Any Chemical Services  
(service includes cut & style)

Shampoo, Cut & Style  
**\$15**

(mention this ad to receive discounts - new customers only please)

**CEDAR LODGE HAIR STUDIO**  
226-C Cedar Lodge Rd., Thomasville (across from Fair Grove School)  
336-475-1910  
Mon - Fri 8:30-6 Close Tuesdays • Saturday by appt. only