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LAW & DISORDER: Convicted youth worker fired again

By Paul Pinkham
 Times-Union staff writer,

A former Jacksonville youth worker, convicted of arranging for two teenagers to have sex in front of him, has been fired again, this time from a church he was pastoring in New Jersey.

Chavalis Williams was fired last week from Shiloh Baptist Church in Newark, which hired him in March despite knowing he was a registered sex offender in Florida.

Williams was known as Chavalis Bonsell in 1999 when he and another worker at Daniel, a facility for troubled youths, arranged for two teens at the center to have sex then looked on and touched them. He pleaded guilty to sexual performance by a child, was put on probation for 30 months and ordered into psychosexual counseling.

A spokesman for the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services told the Newark Star-Ledger on Wednesday that the church had fired Williams, who had been commuting from Jacksonville to Newark. Church leaders supported Williams but some members felt deceived when they learned of his past, The Star-Ledger reported.

As pastor, he was a board member of the church's day-care center.

BUS INCIDENT: A man who was acting strangely aboard a Greyhound bus yesterday was arrested just south of the Florida line after he refused to give up a briefcase that authorities feared might contain a bomb.

Traffic on Interstate 95 was rerouted for about an hour until a Navy bomb disposal team could open the case, which contained only wires and a mix of electronic parts, said Maj. John Griffin of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

Bradley Tirtilli, 30, of Bloomfield Township, Mich., was charged with felony attempted carjacking and misdemeanor disorderly conduct and was in the Nassau County jail yesterday, Griffin said.

Griffin said the bus driver pulled to the side of the highway just south of the Florida welcome station about 7:30 a.m. after a passenger had been causing a disturbance, saying he wanted to drive the bus and was going to take over the bus.

Authorities who arrived at the scene were told by passengers that the man, who refused to relinquish the briefcase, had repeatedly taken the case to the bus rest room, where he stayed for as long as 30 minutes.

A Navy bomb squad that saw wires and other devices in an X-ray of the case opened it with a water cannon and found wires, cellular phone chargers, a computer keyboard and parts that appeared to belong to a water heater.

Griffin said after Tirtilli was arrested, the bus was allowed to continue south.

TAX SENTENCE: A Jacksonville dentist who belonged to a national anti-tax group was sentenced yesterday to six months house arrest and three years probation for failing to file tax returns.

Charles E. Schutt, 66, pleaded guilty this year three days into his trial. He admitted not filing a 1994 tax return on \$121,829 in gross income, but his probation requires him to file tax returns for 1994-1997.

Witnesses at the trial testified Schutt was a long-time member and local representative of a national anti-federal income tax organization known as Save-A-Patriot of Westminster, Md.

POOL DRIVER: The woman who drove her car into a Mandarin swimming pool Wednesday has been identified as Virago Krews, 46, of the 5000 block of Hood Road.

Krews was eastbound on Hood Road near the Inverness Drive intersection about 12:30 p.m. when she swerved into oncoming traffic, then over-corrected and lost control of her car, police said. Krews' small sport utility vehicle struck a tree, crashed through the backyard fence of a home, and landed at the bottom of a pool.

Krews was able to escape from the car and sustained only minor injuries. She was not wearing a seat belt.

She has been cited for reckless driving, not carrying a driver license and not having proof of insurance.

MOTORCYCLIST DIES: One motorcyclist was killed and another seriously injured Wednesday after one of the riders hit a pickup and the other laid his motorcycle down to avoid a crash, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

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Larry Joseph Starr, 23, of Edgemere, Md., died after hitting the side of a truck that turned left in front of his motorcycle on Girvin Road in East Arlington. Starr and Christopher Brossack, 21, of the 6100 block of Clifton Avenue, Jacksonville, were southbound near Ashley Melisse Boulevard on separate motorcycles at 7:35 p.m. when the northbound truck driven by Ray Parker, 47, of the 1200 block of Windy Willow Drive, Jacksonville, turned in front of Starr.

Starr struck the front of the truck and was thrown onto the front of a car driven by Ellen Hoffman, 18, of the 200 block of Melisa Ray Drive, Jacksonville, who was behind Parker's truck.

Starr and Brossack were taken to Shands Jacksonville hospital, where Brossack was in serious condition, according to the Highway Patrol.

Hoffman was wearing a seat belt. It is unknown if Parker was wearing a seat belt. No charges have been filed. The riders were not wearing helmets, said Highway Patrol Lt. Bill Leeper.

PLANT BLAZE: A fire at a Northside JEA electric plant yesterday morning didn't halt power generation but damaged a conveyer belt used to transport limestone into a boiler, utility spokesman Bruce Dugan said.

The small fire at the plant in the 4300 block of Heckscher Drive was extinguished by Jacksonville firefighters less than an hour after it was discovered at 10 a.m., Dugan said. He did not know what started the fire on the belt that is about 30 inches wide and is used to carry crushed limestone.

Dugan said the limestone is injected into the boiler fire to control emissions. The belt is one of three that carry limestone, he said.

LAWSUIT CLOSED: A federal judge has administratively closed the lawsuit local contractors filed against Jacksonville over its minority contracting program.

The ruling makes the lawsuit inactive until the city has time to decide if it's going to enact a new minority contracting program before the current 10-year program sunsets July 12.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Timothy Corrigan said both sides have until Aug. 20 to reopen the case based on the new ordinance. If no motions are filed by then, Corrigan will dismiss the case.

Mayor John Delaney and attorneys for the contractors were both pleased with the ruling.

The lawsuit alleges the current program is unconstitutional in the way it sets percentage goals for minority and female-owned businesses to garner city contracts.

Times-Union staff writers Tia Mitchell, Dana Treen and Mary Kelli Palka contributed to this report.

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