

Larry Rowell

From page 12A

Super smart—he knew his stuff. I was honored to learn under him for his short time at the office. We argued here and there. Both of us a bit [a lot] stubborn, surprisingly, those arguments always simmered pretty quickly. For the most part, our judgement ran pretty parallel. He had his beliefs and he stood by them firmly.

When Larry and I teamed up on something, things got dicey around here. Ha!

I mentioned in a recent Facebook post that Larry accepted me from Day 1.

He said numerous times, “Girl, this is you...I trust you. You

run this place.”

While that is an exaggeration, he accepted my word as gold. He put me on a pedestal that doesn't exist and I have never felt more respect from anyone in my 32 years. While he didn't care to step on anyone's toes, he chose not to, and that gained him a lot of respect in Green County.

A family-man Larry was. He cherished his wife and his son, Parker, and considered himself blessed. He never failed to ask about my children, Cayden and Conleigh. They absolutely adored him. And he said my husband, Adam, is the luckiest man alive (ha!), and vice-versa (truth).

Dr. James E. Jones gave a heartfelt eulogy at the funeral service Monday morning. One thing he said about Larry really struck home.

“When you meet him, you love him,” he said. “When you meet him, you don't forget him.”

How true is that?

Larry's battle was short. *Short* seems like too long of a word.

He went to the hospital December 17 with chest pains, thinking he was having a heart attack.

He was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer January 2. The cancer had spread to his liver, spleen and lymph nodes.

He passed away January 25.

Crazy. This life is short. This life is crazy. “I've lived my life,

and it's been a good one,” Larry told me the last time he was at the office, just before Christmas.

Both of us watching our sugar levels, we talked about my holi-

day baking.

“I'm going to eat all the sugar I want now,” he said, and laughed.

And, because I'm not a crier and I am definitely a realist, I laughed too.

We enjoyed a large, sugar-free french vanilla iced-coffee from McDonald's together one last time.

Rest in peace, friend. You have been a true bright spot in my life.

Gartin

From page 1A

Gartin is a specialized instructor in firearms, subject control arrest techniques, physical fitness, pepper spray, ground fighting, rapid deployment, crowd control and chemical munitions.

Gartin is co-founder

and owner of a product development and training company, Spear Point Technologies Inc.

Gartin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion & Counseling from Liberty University.

He has been married to his wife, Tiffany, for 17 years and they have two children, James, 16, and Kylei, 15.

Refreshments will be

served and there will be music.

Everyone is invited to be a part of the Black History Month celebration in honor of African Americans who have contributed to the growth and development of the United States.

For information, call Jerry Cowherd at 270-932-7857 or 270-405-3621.

Grant

From page 1A

Tyler Butler, 22, of Columbia was arrested on charges of endangering the welfare of a minor and wanton endangerment. He was lodged in the Adair County Regional Jail by Deputy Hitch. Hitch was assisted on scene by Sheriff Josh Brockman, Deputy Josh Durbin and Child Protective Services.

When Kaitlyn's boss, Easton Bryant, heard the news, he wasn't surprised at her response.

“Anyone who knows Kaitlyn knows that she has an indescribable energy about her. She consistently looks for the good in others and is always finding unique ways to randomly brighten people's days. This story fits perfectly into her narrative,” he said.

Grant's DWY host mom Samantha Morgan agreed.

“I got to know Kaitlyn well when I was her DYW host mom and she has a heart of gold,” Morgan said. “She has a great head on her shoulders and is always thinking of others and putting them first.”

“It does not surprise me at all in her quick thinking to turn around and take care of that child.”

“I don't feel like a hero,” Kaitlyn Grant said. “I just think it was the right thing to do.”

From Casey

From page 2A

When I told him I needed a Santa for our employee Christmas parties at both Jane Todd Crawford Hospital and Casey County Hospital, he readily agreed. So, he let kids crawl up in his lap, pull on his beard, stiffen out and scream, or give him a big hug.

Larry was always community-minded. He didn't hesitate to participate. And he always sweated the small stuff. That's a compliment.


So many Larry stories come to mind... how excited and animated he would be if he got a lead on a “good” story; how he loved to cook smelly food in our little kitchen; how he couldn't stand dirty dishes in the sink and was always cleaning up after everyone; how he would fall asleep at his desk in the days before he got his C-pap machine (I used to really worry about him driving back and forth to work during those days); how he tried to get us all to embrace boiled peanuts (yuk!); how he liked to cover politics, but not beauty pageants; and, of course, any needling he could do to Kentucky Wildcat fans versus his Georgia Bulldogs.

Larry wrote an investigate piece one time that really raised

a lot of eyebrows, and it also won him an award. A lot of people liked it; a lot of people didn't. I remember passing on these words of wisdom the late Casey News owner Fred Burkhard once told me: “If you do your job right, you're going to have at least 20 percent of the people mad at you at all times fortunately, it's a revolving 20 percent.” Larry understood that too. Sometimes when he found himself in the middle of a sticky story, he'd call and ask me what I'd do. I appreciated that.

In the years after I left the Casey News, I'd often meet Larry on the road between Liberty and Campbellsville. We'd each be on our way home in the evenings and would wave. I can still see him now... leaning over the steering wheel, hand up, fingers wiggling, and a big smile on his face. I still look for that car.

I believe God puts people in our life's path for specific reasons, and Larry was definitely put in the path of many. Only God knows all the positive impacts he made. The last time I saw Larry was on Dec. 11 where he was Santa at Casey County Hospital's Christmas party. The next time I see him will be in Heaven.



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