

Loving life in London

Livia Brewer enjoys parade experience

BY LISA HOBBS
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Warren County High School senior Livia Brewer marched through the sights and sounds of London and Paris, which made her New Year's experience extraordinary.

"When we finally got there, it was awesome," said Brewer of London. "It was more than you could ever imagine. We were in London for four days."

Brewer arrived Wednesday, Dec. 27 after a seven-hour plane ride from Atlanta. She, along with 650 other dancers and cheerleaders from around the world, were selected to participate in the world-famous London New Year's Day Parade. A member of Paula's Dance Academy, Brewer was chosen during a Varsity Spirit summer camp.

That adventure was the tip of the proverbial iceberg. After being allowed to recoup from jet lag on Wednesday, the excitement began Thursday with a bus tour through London that included top tourist attractions.

"One of the places we went was Buckingham Palace," said Brewer. "The guards really don't move. We got to see the changing of the guards. It's really cool to watch. They come out in groups, march around and take each other's spots to relieve the other guys. We saw that at both Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace. We also went to St. Paul's Cathedral, which was really nice."

The group also saw Millennium Bridge, officially known as the London Millennium, which is a steel suspension bridge for pedestrians crossing the River Thames. However, it

is probably most well-known for its use in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

"Everyone was really excited to see the Millennium Bridge because it was on Harry Potter," said Brewer.

Not every day was structured. Parents who traveled with their children were allowed to check them out for two of the days and go on personal tours.

"They gave us two free days. My mom and I used one of those days. We took a train to Paris. That was a good trip. We got to see the Eiffel Tower and the Tower of London, where you can see the crown jewels from past monarchs. We saw a lot during the week."

Paris offered the biggest culture shock.

"In London, they speak English. When we went over to Paris, they speak French. We were like 'Oh my goodness. What are you saying?' To get to do both London and Paris was wonderful. I got a lot of culture this week. It was a really great experience."

Room temperature drinks are customary.

"The food wasn't that much different. They don't season everything like we do. They don't do a lot of ice in drinks. Sometimes they would put one or two cubes of ice in your drink, but that was it. They don't like ice. Everything was pretty much room temperature. They kind of got me hooked though. They put lemon in their Coke. It was surprisingly really good. I didn't think it would be, but it is."

Londoners are not into low-carb foods.

"They are big on pastries. Every morning the hotel would serve us breakfast. It would be three pastry options every morning. That was the main thing. It would



The Tower Bridge in London was among the sites to see for Livia Brewer, who was invited to be one of 650 cheerleaders and dancers from across the United States to perform in the world-famous London New Year's Day Parade.

be chocolate-filled croissants or raisin-filled croissants. We saw this a lot on the train. They would pull a loaf of bread out of their backpack to eat. They would yank it out of their backpack and start eating. It was a bakery fresh loaf of bread. They eat a lot of bread."

Weight is not as much of an issue as in America.

"They walk everywhere. They walk and ride bikes. A lot of them do use the public transportation, but we learned that if you want to drive on the road in London, you have to pay a fee. That was interesting."

The Congestion Charge is a daily charge of 11.50 euros (\$13.87 in U.S. dollars) for driving a vehicle within the charging zone between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is meant to reduce traffic congestion. Exceptions and discounts

are available. For Christmas and New Year's Day, people can drive for free from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1.

After Monday's parade performance, Brewer boarded another plane on Tuesday morning for the 4,200-mile trip back to Atlanta.

"We got on the plane and they announced it would be a nine-hour flight. I thought are you serious? What happened to seven? I asked a lady that works in the office with my mom and she said you are going against the air current on the way back and that's why it takes seven to get there and nine to get back. I preferred seven."

London New Year's Day Parade is in its 32nd year. Cheerleaders, dancers, marching bands, acrobats and more made up the 10,000 performers representing 20 countries worldwide in the 2018 parade.

Man charged with stealing checks for gifts

BY DUANE SHERRILL
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Theft charges have been leveled against a Rock Island man who allegedly forged checks belonging to his grandmother to buy Christmas presents.

The suspect, Corey Michael Kirby, 33, faces theft for the crime that he reportedly perpetrated the week before Christmas, a crime lawyer says was caught on camera.

The investigation into

the crime began when Kirby's grandmother noticed two of her checks were missing. Sheriff's Sgt. Kelly Carter went to Dollar General to begin following the paper trail. There, he was shown a video tape in which Kirby can be seen buying a number of items. The merchandise totaled \$332.

During court this week it was learned the purchases made from his grandmother's account were made to buy presents for Christmas. Kirby will face hearing Jan. 16.

VETERANS CORNER

Southern Standard

AMERICAN LEGION POST 173
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at Billy's Restaurant (2822 Nashville Highway in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 pm for dinner with the meeting to follow at 6:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members are also welcome to attend. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @post173 to stay up to date on all American Legion activities.
New Post address is: American Legion Post 173, P.O. Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111. The Ladies Auxiliary meets at the same time.

THE BOBBY RAY DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at the Warren County Administrative Building (201 Locust Street) in the Magnolia Room. Doors open at 1800 and the meeting starts at 1830. All honorable discharged Marines, Navy FMF Corpsman and Navy Chaplains who served with the marines are invited to attend. For more information call 931-934-5619.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER (POST 173)
Our MONTHLY MEETING are held the fourth Saturday each month at Billy's Restaurant (2822 Nashville Hwy. in McMinnville). Member will meet at 9:00am for breakfast, meeting to follow at 10:00am. Group will go for a ride after the meeting, weather permitting, location to be determined by the Road Captain. We are looking for new members. For information contact Rider Director John Davis American Legion Rider Chapter Post 173, PO Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, ROYCE DAVENPORT CHAPTER 1112
Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Billy's restaurant (2822 Nashville Hwy. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, with meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members will need to bring copy of DD Form 214 to verify service and join. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @VVA1112 to stay up to date on all VVA and AVVA activities.

Associate Vietnam Veterans of America, Royce Davenport Chapter 1112
Meeting is the same time and place as the VVA (see above). Anyone can be a member. There is no requirement to be related to a Veteran in anyway, however Veterans can also join. Please come and join our organization. Royce Davenport Chapter 1112 will again be collecting non-perishable items for the Warren County Emergency Food Bank during the Main Street Live Concert Series on Friday nights starting June 9, 2017 and continuing through the series. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5064
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at the VFW Post Home (3340 Sparta Highway) at 7:00 pm. Prospective members are encouraged to attend. Call 931-668-8392 for more information. The VFW Auxiliary meets at the same time.

PUBLISHER'S PICS

Standard publisher Pat Zechman has been in the newspaper business for 50 years, the last 26 years as publisher/general manager of the **Southern Standard**. Zechman wants to give back to the community and the **Standard** alike and it has led her to creating the Publisher's Pics feature. This week's pictures are from January, 1968. Look for more Publisher's Pics on the **Southern Standard** Facebook page.



VISIT SOUTHERN STANDARD—Cub Scout Packs 172 and 86, along with guests and den mothers recently enjoyed a guided tour through the Standard facilities and demonstration as to how the Standard news is assembled and printed. Those making the tour were Jeff Grissom, Christopher Moore, Elaine Prater, Donna Neff, Frank Eastman,

Randy Prater, Jeff Walker and Eugene Neff. Back row—Mark Hathcock, Doug Parker, Larry Madewell, Bill Allison, Kenneth Cunningham, Victor Willis, Stanley Dun and Phillip Grissom. The den mothers are Mrs. Glenda Neff and Mrs. Dyer Grissom.



SNOWBALL FIGHT—The snow and icy winds that swept Warren county Friday and continued through Sunday night, leaving a total of four inches of snow on the ground and keeping temperatures in the teens—may have been trouble for the older generations, but not for the younger set. Key Martin, guard on the McMinnville City Robolette team, and daughter of Alderman and Mrs. Sam Martin, Jr., like most of the youngsters of the area had nothing but fun. Miss Martin is shown as she jokingly aimed a snowball at a Standard photographer who was making his rounds Friday afternoon.



REBOUND STRUGGLE—This picture, taken from the balcony of City high's gym, shows the fierceness of a rebound battle between Centertown's Danny Jacobs and City's Jerry King in a game played Friday night. Others

in the picture are Centertown's Marlin Keaton (44), Roy Lorraine (12) and Lee Johnson (14). City players pictured are Jerry Bost (43), Steve Phillips (24) and Richard Cope (14). City won the tussle 51-36.