



Photo furnished by Chickasaw City Clerk Jessica Veals

Cpl. Matt Parker of Chickasaw named First Responder of the Year

Chickasaw Police Officer Cpl. Matt Parker, second from right, was recognized by the city and Keels Federal Credit Union with the First Responder of the Year Award in a Nov. 17 presentation at the Chickasaw Police Station. Cpl. Parker was noted for assisting a young boy in a motorcycle accident earlier this year. Cpl. Parker is one of 79 first responders recognized from Keels's branch area including Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. From left are Chickasaw Mayor Barry Broadhead; Crystal Brooks, Keels Federal Credit Union Midtown Branch manager; Cpl. Parker; and Chickasaw Director of Public Safety Brian Fillingim.

Man accused of shooting his uncle several times

STAFF REPORT
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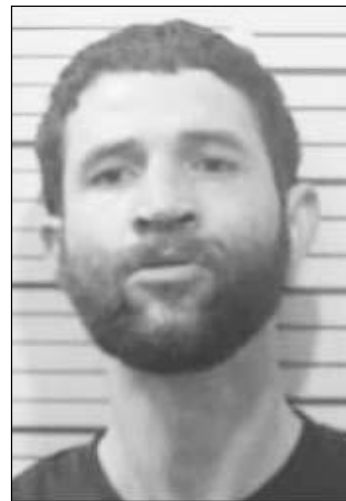
A domestic dispute in Mount Vernon over the weekend resulted in one man going to jail and a second going to University Hospital.

According to reports from the Mobile County Sheriff's Office, Michael Sean Johnston, 30, of Mount Vernon was taken into custody on Nov. 22 and charged with first-degree assault.

Reports in the case indicate that Johnston is accused of shooting his uncle, Benjamin Travis Weaver, multiple times.

Noted in the reports of the case is that the two men were said to have gotten into a dispute at a residence on Villard Byrd Road. MCSO was dispatched to the house on Nov. 21 and upon arrival, deputies noted they had found Weaver suffering from multiple gunshot wounds to his body.

Deputies reported that Weaver had been stuck by projectiles in his right calf, left elbow and to his lower back near the spine. Due to the nature of the wounds,



Michael Johnston

Weaver was transported to University Hospital for treatment.

Deputies also noted that Johnston had fled the scene prior to the deputies' arrival. The following day, Johnston was located by deputies at a residence on Red Fox Road. Deputies were able to take him into custody and transport him to Metro Jail.

Since 2015, Johnston has been arrested in Mobile County multiple times. His charges during that time have included multiple drug violations, domestic violence, probation revocation, criminal mischief and resisting arrest.

FEMA: Federal officials view damage

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it to have been sooner but there are other issues going on as well. They went to a number of homes that were damaged from the hurricane, and they also saw all of the debris that still needs to be picked up. They finished their evaluation on Thursday and said they would be in touch with their decision. I have no idea how soon that decision will come down or what it will be."

At the time of the inspections in Citronelle, Gov. Kay Ivey still had not declared the area to be in a state of emergency due to the storm. Instead, Ivey's office reportedly began to refer callers with questions concerning the hurricane to officials with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. In a statement released by officials with AEMA, confirmation was made that damage assessment was in process for 18 Alabama counties affected by the storm. Mobile County's was on Thursday of last week.

Should the area be given a disaster dec-

laration, the confirmation will be used for financial reimbursement for debris cleanup. The delay in declaring the area a disaster area was most recently called into question by members of the Mobile County Commission. During their regular meeting held on Monday of last week, members of the commission voted in favor of sending a letter to federal representatives encouraging them to support and seek out federal disaster assistance for Mobile County.

In addressing the issue, Commissioner Connie Hudson said she could not understand what was preventing the declaration from being put in place.

"I don't understand what the holdup is," Hudson said. "We have people with debris sitting out there wondering why it's not being picked up. We're turning to our federal legislators for help and support in this."

There has been no indication as to when the final report of evaluation of the damage will be made public.

SCHOOLS: Mackey has praise for MCPSS

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except a celebration. Tomorrow morning, we'll be at Brookley Field celebrating the program that you're doing for Airbus, a wonderful program for young people. That's a partnership between us, the Department of Commerce, and the Mobile County Public Schools and Airbus."

Mackey went on to say that earlier in the day, he and members of his staff had attended the Alabama Principals Conference, which was held in Mobile. During his address of those attending the conference, Mackey said he reminded everyone that education is about the children.

"We're glad that some of our associations are meeting in person again and I told them that we all went into this for children. It's about your love for children," Mackey said. "We have to do so much other stuff but it's about our children. They need us now more than they ever have before."

"As hard as it is to be forced to deal with the coronavirus every day, having to open and close schools, and having to deal with remote learning and then teaching in person, with all the things we are dealing with, our children cannot afford for us to give up on them."

Mackey said another thing on his agenda was to travel to the south end of the county to Alma Bryant High School in Irvington. He went on to say he was going there in order to celebrate David Dai being chosen as Alabama's High School Teacher of the Year.

"Normally in May, we would have the Teachers of the Year come to Montgomery," Mackey said. "Of course, as you know, things this year have been different. We didn't get to do that celebration, so we're going down to Alma Bryant and celebrate at the school. In some ways, it's even better but we certainly missed having him and his colleagues in

Montgomery."

Alabama's top school leader went on to say there was yet another reason to come to Mobile and that was to celebrate Mobile County School Board Superintendent Chresal Threadgill having been chosen as Alabama's Superintendent of the Year. He went on to add that he was glad to have been able to attend the swearing-in, held earlier in the day, of newly elected school board member Sherry McDade and re-elected board member Dr. Reginald Crenshaw Sr.

"Mr. Threadgill will represent us on the national stage as one of 52 Superintendents of the Year," Mackey said. "He's in the running to be the national Superintendent of the Year, and we're all keeping our fingers crossed that in the next couple of months, as they go through that vetting process, that he'll be right up there at the top; because I can assure you, he's one of the best."

"We appreciate the work that he does, and I have to take the opportunity to say thank you to this board, and congratulations to our new board member (McDade) and our newly re-elected board member (Crenshaw). Thanks for your service in a very difficult year. Without a doubt, this has been the most challenging and difficult year that public schools have faced in a very long time."

"Historically, we have not faced anything this challenging since the Second World War. So many of our young people that were 16 or 17 lied about their age and left our schools. It took a while for the schools to get back together, and that was over 70 years ago. Many people now didn't remember and did not have to deal with something like this. It is a difficult time, but we are going to get through it."



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