

NEWS LOCAL & STATE

Ware County Woman Faces Animal Cruelty Charges After Social Media Post

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

WARE COUNTY, Georgia – This week, Ware County resident Kate Murphy went into her Ware County neighbor's yard to complain about animals owned by Christian Lee. Murphy was expressed concern that the animals were coming onto her property. When Lee refused to come off her porch and engage with her, Murphy kicked a 6-week old kitten bruising it. The incident was caught on video by Lee and posted on social media.

Murphy is now facing animal cruelty charges from the Ware County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). She is also facing the additional charges of Criminal trespass and Disorderly conduct for her actions.

The WCSO report indicates that when Murphy crossed onto Lee's property, she was visibly upset and shouting. Lee did respond in a heated oral exchange although Lee chose to stay on her porch and take the video of their interactions. When Lee failed to come down into the yard, Murphy chose to kick the 6 week old kitten sending it flying in the air.

Lee has indicated that when checked, the kitten had no internal damage but did incur bruising from the blow.

Kate Murphy was charged the day following the incident after meeting with WCSO Sheriff Carl James and Chief McNeese. Christian Lee has indicated that both individuals took her experience seriously. Law enforcement did take the incident seriously and pursued the charges against Kate Murphy.

An Evening for ABAC set for Feb. 24



TIFTON—A fantastic night of food, fun, dancing, and supporting student scholarships will take place at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's annual "An Evening for ABAC" on February 24.

The event, which will be held at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center, will include a virtual auction beginning on Feb. 21, cocktails, a fabulous dinner, and entertainment featuring Disc Jockey ETC.

ABAC Director of Alumni and Special Events Lynda Fisher, the coordinator for this year's event, said the night is one of the college's highlight events each year.

"This year's event will have a derby feel to it, and we encourage those ladies to wear a fabulous hat with their stunning outfits," Fisher said.

The event has a rich history, dating back to 1972 when the ABAC Foundation sponsored a fundraiser featuring Anita Bryant to complete the funding for the Chapel of All Faiths. One year later, the foundation sponsored a second event with country music star Eddie Arnold and the annual Dollars for Scholars program was born.

Dollars for Scholars was a popular annual attraction featuring entertainers such as Ronnie Milsap, the Temptations, Marie Osmond, Ray Stevens, Louise Mandrell, and Helen Reddy. Trisha Yearwood attracted the largest Dollars for Scholars crowd in 2006 with an audience of over 1,800 fans. The ABAC Foundation changed the name of the event to An Evening for ABAC in 2008 and focused its efforts entirely on raising funds for scholarships.

The event provides over \$100,000 in scholarships for the Baldwin Scholars program annually. The Baldwin Scholars program was originally established in 1985 and was known as the ABAC Foundation Scholars. It has provided over a million dollars in scholarships to ABAC students.

"We are grateful for our sponsors and donors each year as they support scholarships for worthy students," Fisher said. "Over \$130,000 was raised last year at this event for scholarships, but we hope to top that this year."

Tickets for An Evening for ABAC are \$150 for singles and \$275 for couples. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible. For tickets, interested persons can visit www.abac.edu/evening or call (229) 391-4895.

Attendees may use the link to purchase tables and tickets as well as view the online auction. Bidding will open on Wednesday, February 21 and will run through Saturday. Participants do not need to be present to bid.

Event sponsors are vital to the success of An Evening for ABAC.

Sponsorship levels include the Summa Cum Laude level for \$20,000 which sponsors six scholarships, Magna Cum Laude for \$15,000 which sponsors five scholarships, Cum Laude for \$10,000 which sponsors four scholarships, President's List for \$5,000 which sponsors two scholarships, and Dean's List for \$2,500 which sponsors one scholarship. Also, reserved tables for eight patrons are available for \$1,750. The online registration deadline for tables and tickets is Friday, Feb. 9. After that, anyone interested can call (229) 391-4900 for availability.

Each sponsorship level comes with a variety of attractive opportunities. Those interested in finding out more information about those levels or sponsoring the event can contact Development Officer Randi Hickman at randi.hickman@abac.edu or by calling (229) 391-4902.

Leading the list of sponsors so far are the Colquitt Regional Medical Center and Southwell at the Summa Cum Laude level and the South Georgia Banking Company at the Dean's List level.

Lakeland Fire Department Report

01/01- Call to a field on fire on Capt. John Smith Road. Arrived to find that a control burn had jumped into a corn field and was headed to the woods on the other side. While waiting on a truck to arrive a subject in a tractor with a harrow cut a break around the fire to protect an irrigation pivot. Firemen used 2 booster lines to arrest the flames before they entered the woods.

01/02- Call to an auto accident on Allen Road. Arrived to find that a pickup had left the road and struck a tree. The driver was transported by EMS with a head injury.

01/03- Call to an alarm on Chadwick Lane. Arrived to find that all was okay.

01/03- Call to an auto accident on Hwy 221 South. Arrived to find two vehicles involved with both off the roadway. one subject was transported by EMS with

several injuries. The scene was turned over to Lowndes Fire due to the fact that the accident was in Lowndes county.

01/04- Call to a truck fire on Hwy 221 South. Arrived to find a semi in the roadway with the brakes smoking. The driver had used an extinguisher on the flames and already had the fire out. Firemen worked traffic around the truck until it was able to be move.

01/05- Call to a house fire on Jackson Road. Arrived to find smoke coming from the eaves of the home. Upon entering the home Chief Yeomans found a burn spot on the ceiling and used a fireplace poker to punch a hole in the sheetrock to expose the flames in the attic. A garden hose was used to suppress the fire until firemen arrived. When most of the fire was out an overhaul was done to check how far the flames had spread.

Lanier County Sheriff's Office Report

• **January 02, 2024, 1354 hours.** **Michael Adam Cataffo** (42) charged with Hold 6 months per superior court judge. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff's Office. Arresting officer: Anthony Lawrence. Housed for: Ware County Jail. Property/Cash Bond: none listed/none listed

• **January 02, 2024, 1700 hours.** **Tyeshon Davion Young** (24) charged with Theft by taking – misdemeanor, Willful obstruction of law enforcement officers – misdemeanor, Probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for finger printable charge (2

counts). Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff's Office. Arresting officer: Anthony Lawrence. Housed for: Ware County Jail. Property/Cash Bond: NO BOND/NO BOND

• **January 04, 2128 hours.** **Anthonette-Faye Robinson** (38) charged with Driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor), and Speeding 11 to 15 miles over 55 MPH zone. Arrested by: Georgia State Patrol. Arresting officer: Nicholas Morris. Housed for: Coffee County Jail. Property/Cash Bond: \$1,320.00/ none listed

Lakeland Police Department Report

• **January 4, 2015 hours.** Lakeland City Police Units were dispatched to the South Georgia Medical Center in reference to a cat bite. Offender's

name: Not Listed. Incident type: Not Listed. Reporting Officer: Gena Willis. Property type: not listed.

For the record, any redactions in law enforcement reports published by LCN are made by the reporting agency.

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