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Remembering Mrs. Parker

Community recalls giving nature of late teacher

BY TONYA S. GRACE
CADIZ RECORD STAFF WRITER

The little boy played “moose ears” with his friend every morning. The friend would put her thumbs on her head and wiggle her fingers.

He would mimic the gesture. Together the little boy, 6-year-old Ayven Gilbert, and his friend, Trigg County High School science teacher Simone Whipple Parker, had a special bond, said his mother Stephanie Gilbert.

An art teacher and Parker’s colleague at the high school, Gilbert recently had to explain Parker’s death to her son, and the shared daily ritual helped get the message across to Ayven, a special needs youth.

“Oh, my moose friend died,” Gilbert recalled of her son’s understanding.

Parker, 46, died on Jan. 2 of complications from the coronavirus, and the local community has been mourning the passing of a woman that those who knew her say was an extremely caring, loving, down-to-earth person who gave of herself, not only in the classroom, but beyond its walls as well.



Photo provided
Trigg County High School science teacher Simone Whipple Parker, 46, died on Jan. 2 of complications from the coronavirus.

Colleague Brandy Woodall King described Parker as Trigg County’s Mother Teresa.

“She didn’t birth kids because the Lord knew she would need to mother more kids than she could physically birth,” observed King, a language arts teacher at the high school. “She had a heart the size of Texas and was strong enough to support an

entire community. No one can replace her.”

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear remembered Parker in his media briefing on Monday.

“That wraith that hangs on the front of this capitol that lights up green every night is going to be lit in honor of Simone Parker and everyone

“She found good in every kid she worked with.”

— Shannon Burcham
Trigg County High School principal

SEE **PARKER/PAGE A4**

Chamber nears hire of membership director

Board considering four applicants

BY TONYA S. GRACE
CADIZ RECORD STAFF WRITER

The Trigg County Chamber of Commerce has completed its application process and is expecting to name a new membership director for its organization by February or March.

President Ashley Johnson said the chamber has four applicants who are good candidates for the position whose primary responsibility will be ensuring its members’ needs are being met.

“I’m hopeful that when we get that position filled folks will see us execute some ideas that maybe we haven’t in the past,” said Johnson, who oversees the chamber’s 12-member board.

Former Membership Director Connie Allen announced her departure in October, and Johnson and two of the board members have been handling the director’s responsibilities in the interim.

Johnson said the chamber’s

hiring committee was to meet this week and make a recommendation to the chamber board; the board will then decide whether to hire someone or solicit for new candidates. Johnson said she’d like to see someone in place by February but said it could be March, depending on the circumstances of the person tapped for the position.

She noted that the membership director position is a part-time position and is the chamber’s only paid position. Along with ensuring the members’ needs, other duties for the director include filling new memberships and coordinating activities the group hosts during the year.

Among its offerings are periodic luncheons for chamber members that offer opportunities for networking and hearing speakers with helpful information for their businesses and customers.

The chamber hosts Business After Hours events, coordinates the costume contest offered as part of Halloween Safe Night

SEE **CHAMBER/PAGE A6**



Ashley Johnson

Regional center holding blood drives

BY MICHELE VOWELL
CADIZ RECORD MANAGING EDITOR

Kathi Reed spent about 20 minutes last week relaxing in a chair at the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center on South Virginia Street drinking a Coca-Cola while giving her one-pint donation.

The Hopkinsville High School business teacher estimates she has donated about 5 gallons of blood at the center through the years.

“It’s one of those things you can do to give back to your community,” she said. “There’s a lot of things people do — they

SEE **BLOOD/PAGE A6**



Michele Vowell | Cadiz Record

Kathi Reed, a Hopkinsville High School business teacher, prepares to donate blood as phlebotomist Monique Jones inserts a needle in Reed’s arm last week at the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center on South Virginia Street. Officials said donations are down because of the pandemic.

Biby case presented to special prosecutor

BY TONYA S. GRACE
CADIZ RECORD STAFF WRITER

The case involving Shawn Biby, the Cadiz resident who was fatally shot by Trigg County Sheriff Aaron Acree in October, has now been presented to special prosecutor Zac Greenwell.

“The report has been submitted to me,” Greenwell confirmed last week, noting that he hasn’t yet gone through all of the information that was provided to him in the matter.

In addition to the main report, Greenwell said he has received supporting documents and “hours and hours of interviews” related to the Biby case.

Greenwell is a Marion attorney and a commonwealth’s attorney for the state’s 5th Judicial Circuit representing Crittenden, Union and Webster counties.

Biby, 44, was shot by the sheriff on Oct. 28 after Acree responded to a Forest Circle residence near Cadiz and became involved in an altercation with Biby shortly after arriving.



Shawn Biby



Aaron Acree

Acree discharged his service weapon, striking and fatally wounding Biby, who was pronounced dead by Trigg County Coroner John Mark Vinson at Trigg County Hospital.

Preliminary results of an autopsy by the Western Kentucky Medical Examiner’s Office in Madisonville showed that Biby died of multiple gunshot wounds to the torso.

Acree placed himself on administrative leave on the day of the incident but has since resumed his duties.

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INSIDE
Petition seeks impeachment of Gov. Beshear
Page A4



INDEX

OBITUARIES	A2
OPINION	A5
LAKE LEVELS	A6
SPORTS	B1
COMICS	B3
LIVING	B4
CLASSIFIEDS	B6

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