

THE REPORTER

Thursday, May 28, 2015 | 75 Cents | Online at sandmountainreporter.com

INSIDE: Local AARP group names Citizen of the Year.
A8

SPORTS: Albertville cheerleaders sign with Snead State.
B1



Guntersville

Police ID wreck victims

Two adults, two children suffer critical injuries

Elizabeth Summers
esummers@sandmountainreporter.com

Guntersville Police Chief Jim Peterson says investigators continue to probe the cause of a horrific wreck that sent two adults and two children to area hospitals Sunday.

The wreck at Pleasant Grove Road and U.S. 431 occurred Sunday at 10:30 a.m. when a vehicle driven by Amelia Smith, of Union Grove, slammed into a metal utility pole head on.

Peterson said initial investigation into the accident shows Smith may have accelerated significantly in an attempt to

See **Wreck** | A7

ATRIIP projects continue

Road paving, construction plans under way

Bradley Roberts
broberts@sandmountainreporter.com

Since 2012, Marshall County has applied for 19 road paving and construction projects under the umbrella of the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program.

ATRIIP is an Alabama Department of Transportation administered federal aid program that funds up to 80 percent of the construction of important roadway projects.

Of these 19 projects, five of them have been completed, and nine of them are in The Reporter's coverage area and have begun or are set to go to bid by the start of 2016.

Two of those projects are set to go to bid letting on the last Friday in June, according to County Engineer Bob Pirando.

Both projects will be to repair bridges, with one of those projects being to

See **ATRIIP** | A7

A love of reading



The Reporter | Malarie Allen
Albertville Health and Rehab Select resident Mildred Goss, left, enjoys a crossword puzzle book with Kathleen Mason at the nursing home's new library.

Daughter donates library in mother's memory

Malarie Allen
mallen@sandmountainreporter.com

Boaz resident Kathleen Mason learned early from her parents to love reading. Today, she believes there's no reason everyone can't enjoy books, even after they move into a nursing home.

Mason's mother, Dorothy Culbert, lived at Albertville Health and Rehab Select during the last three and a half years of her life. During that time, Mason became an environmental services employee at the facility, where she got to know many of the staff and residents.

After her mother died, Mason developed and donated a library

earlier this year to the facility in her mother's memory.

"I thought that would make her happy," Mason said.

Mason transformed an awkward corner of the facility's activity room into a bustling library with more than 1,000 books for residents to enjoy. Most of the books are large print. They span the genres of romance, mystery, western and more.

"I think it's great," administrator Mary Meeks said. "The residents really do enjoy it."

When someone suggested Mason purchase a special plaque honoring her mother to hang in the library, she decided

to make her own out of paint and marker.

"(Mom) would get a kick out of it," Mason said. "She always said I never got out of my second childhood."

Word puzzle books lay on two large tables near the bookshelves, and a magazine rack contains a number of periodicals. Mason even provided a small chest of children's books so residents can read with grandchildren and other young visitors.

Those who have trouble seeing even large print can use the closed circuit reader or attend a regular reading session, where

See **Library** | A6

Libraries plan summer reading programs

Albertville and Boaz public libraries plan wide variety of entertainment, activities

Malarie Allen
mallen@sandmountainreporter.com

The Boaz Public Library will kick off a summer of super reading fun during a special celebration on June 1.

Superheroes can already be spotted around the library in preparation for the popular annual summer reading program. This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story."

The kick-off party is June 1 at 6 p.m. and will include a parade and ice cream. Children are encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero.

Program participants will then gather at the library every Monday at 6 p.m. through July 21 to

Schedule of events

See page A6 for a complete schedule of events planned at both Albertville and Boaz summer reading programs.

see a special program featuring favorite annual presentations, like live animals and Maynard the puppet, as well as a few new ones, such as Brian Bruggeman, the juggler, and Arthur Atsma, the magician.

Additionally, following the "hero" theme, children will also have the opportunity to meet and learn about local heroes, like Boaz police and firemen, as well as a representative from the U.S. Army, and explore their related vehicles, including a police car, a fire truck and a military Humvee.

See **Summer** | A6

Guntersville

Being prepared

City Council seeks grant to protect harbor

Bradley Roberts
broberts@sandmountainreporter.com

The threat for biological or chemical attack in America has become a harsh reality, and now cities have to be prepared for the worst-case scenario at all times.

The Guntersville City Council discussed at length the possibility of approving an application for a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant during its meeting Monday.

This application was for phase two of the grant, which includes three total phases. The first phase included the purchase of a police vessel set to respond to any situation occurring on the lake or near the

See **Grant** | A5

Boaz

Bulk of city's fire employees certified as paramedics

Malarie Allen
mallen@sandmountainreporter.com

The large majority of Boaz Fire Department personnel are now certified paramedics, according to city officials.

Greg Gentry, Jacey Payne and Derek Elliot recently completed paramedic certification by the Certified National Registry, which makes 13 of the department's 18 employees, according to recent reports.

"I think that's a testament to our fire department," Councilman David Ellis said during a meeting Tuesday.

Mayor Tim Walker agreed, saying the community is "as safe as it can be" with the first responders in the city.

In related news, the Boaz Police Department's latest promotion includes a new sergeant.

Boaz Councilman Bubba Riddle an-

See **Medics** | A5

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

PEOPLES INDEPENDENT BANK

www.pibonline.com

BOAZ ¥ SCOTTSBORO ¥ HOKES BLUFF ¥ DOUGLAS ¥ STEELE ¥ GURLEY



Library

Continued from Page A1

the activities director reads a book aloud to residents.

Nursing home resident Mildred Goss is proud of the library and is one of its most loyal patrons.

"It gives you good hours when you don't have anything else to do," she said. "I wouldn't take anything for it."

Where it all began

Both of Mason's parents were avid readers and instrumental in developing Mason's love for books. Mason said she can still hear her mother reading to her and her siblings on the front porch of their childhood country home.

With little money and few neighbors to interact with, Culbert taught her children to see the world through the pages of books. "My mother taught us that a book can be your best friend, and you can travel the world through books," Mason said. "We were poor everywhere we went, but

we always had a library." Mason still has one of her favorite childhood books. The pages are aged and tattered, many threatening to release themselves from the worn binding. Still, the 65-year-old book of children's tales, called "American Childhood's Best Books," is one of Mason's most treasured possessions.

Caring for the heart

Mason retired from the nursing home after her mother died, but she couldn't let go of the place. Now, she volunteers every week as the unofficial librarian. She interacts regularly with the residents, keeps the library organized and even helps people pick out books when needed.

It is the realization of one of Mason's lifelong dreams. She always wanted to be a librarian, but she wasn't able to go to college to receive the proper training. Today, she feels "blessed" to serve in this capacity.

"I like coming back to



visit the residents, too," Mason said. "I want to get my hugs and kisses. They're like family here."

Mason is now trying to replace all remaining regular sized print books with large print versions and hopes the library continues to grow. She even intends to add greeting cards to her list of library services, providing cards for residents to fill out at no cost and give to loved ones for birthdays and other special events.

Libby Alford, vice president of operations for Rehab Select, praised Mason's work and said the library just adds another way for the nursing home to care for the residents' hearts, as well as their physical needs.

"You've got to take care of the total person, and the heart is in that," she said. "(The library) really adds something to the room. It gives it life and makes it happy."

The Reporter | Malarie Allen
Kathleen Mason made her own plaque to honor her mother. It now hangs above the bookshelves in the Albertville Health and Rehab Select library.

GUARDIANSHIP:

If something happens to you who is going to take care of your children?

Do you have it in a legal document?

If you do not please call me at 256-891-7979

Let me help you!

Probate • Family Law • Civil • Criminal
Personal Injury • Traffic • Adoption

Gregory K. Price

Attorney at Law

256.891.7979

116 AL Ave., Ste B, Albertville



No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.



Albertville's schedule

The Albertville Public Library will celebrate heroes, as well, with the "Every Hero Has a Story" summer reading program.

Weekly sessions take place at 10 a.m. every Tuesday from June 16 — July 21. The list of scheduled programs includes:

- June 16 — Animal avengers
- June 23 — McWane Science Center
- June 30 — Tennessee Aquarium
- July 7 — Marshall County RSVP program
- July 14 — Local heroes
- July 21 — Waffle House

For more information, call the library at 256-891-8290.

Boaz's schedule

The list of scheduled events include:

- June 1 — Kick-off parade and ice cream
- June 8 — Steve Burgess magic and music with Maynard the puppet
- June 15 — Tennessee Aquarium: Tropical Treasures
- June 22 — Brian Bruggeman: Heroes of Juggling
- June 29 — Community heroes: U.S. Army, Boaz police and Boaz fire
- July 6 — Arthur Atsma Magic
- July 13 — Professor Zounds: comedy and sound effects
- July 20 — Awards party

Young children can attend "superhero training school," where they will undergo "strength training," learn to fly and practice X-ray vision, at the library during preschool story time at 10 a.m. every Tuesday.

Additionally, the library will show a family-friendly movie at 2 p.m. every Thursday. All-you-can-eat popcorn and Kool-Aid will be available.

All programs are free of charge. For more information, call the library at 256-593-3000.

Summer

Continued from Page A1

The program is free but pre-registration is requested. Free T-shirts, provided by Dixie Designs in Boaz, are available for the first 200 children who register, but Library Director Lynn Burgess said about 100 children have already registered.

Last year, the library registered more than 370 children during the summer event, with around 100 attending each session.

End of Spring Savings Event

Citizen or Seiko Watches
20 to 25% Off

1 ct. Halo Bridal Set \$1,299

Titanium Wedding Bands
starting at \$49

Swords Jewelers

Professional Hometown Service | 256-582-2665 | 384 Gunter Ave. | Guntersville
Monday - Saturday 9 am - 5:30 pm | Visa • Mastercard • American Express • Discover • Layaway

Home For Me...Adopt your new best friend today!

Bacon is a 1.5 year old terrier mix. He is quite the character and would bring joy to any home. Bacon is neutered and ready to go.
Who doesn't love Bacon?

Waylan is a shepherd mix, about a year old. He has boundless energy and gets along well with everyone. He is neutered, and needs a new home.

Sally is a terrier mix around 6 months old. She is full of energy and loves everyone! Sally has been spayed and is looking for a home of her own.

We have the Purrrfect Kitten for you!
2 boys and 1 girl ready for you to love and name.
Playful and very sweet.
Call Albertville Animal Hospital to adopt 256-878-5321 Today

Donate to God's Feral Felines
call 256-960-0538

Albertville Foodland
is a drop off location to donate pet food.

Call Second Chance Shelter today to adopt or donate 256-561-2411

Sweet Dreamz

PARKER POOLS II

McRAE FUNERAL HOME

Studio B Dance Studio

LOWERY BROTHERS MOTORS

BOAZ DISCOUNT DRUGS, INC. & Compounding Shoppe

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Walmart

Albertville Animal Hospital

FOODLAND Supermarkets ALBERTVILLE

Dog Party Pet Services
Kay Johnson
256-572-4027
www.facebook.com/dogpartypetservices
I care for your pets in your home so you can enjoy your time away.

Lake Guntersville Veterinary Services
Services include: in-house blood work, digital x-rays, dentals surgery & more!
HOURS: Mon-Fri 9-5:30, Sat 9-1, Sun by appt only
14236 US Hwy 431, Guntersville, AL (Located inside Pet Depot in Guntersville)
256-486-9053