

Murder...from Page 1A

As McCaysville Police Lt. William “Billy” Brackett spoke with Fults outside of Jackson’s residence, another Fannin County deputy went around the residence through the woods to usher “Amber and a juvenile child from the residence ... to safety,” according to Bramlett.

Lt. Brackett tried to convince Fults to put his knife down so that officers could get him medical help, but “Josh refused and was still holding the knife and would get agitated and (was) threatening to kill himself,” according to Bramlett.

That’s when the Sheriff’s Office decided to subdue Fults using bean bag rounds, planning first to circle behind him in the woods, then lure him away from the residence by having Lt. Terry Stanley drive the vehicle of Jackson’s mother into the driveway, according to Bramlett.

“And when Josh went to the vehicle, (Investigator John) Arp would use the bean bag to distract Josh to get close enough to use a Taser,” according to Bramlett. “I was back up the street to prevent cars from coming down.

“I did hear three shots and started walking toward the residence. Josh was still sitting on the porch holding the knife. Inv. Arp did strike Josh three times with bean bag rounds and four different Tasers deployed with no effect on Josh.”

Fults finally relinquished his knife once Jackson said she would speak with him, and after giving her a hug, Fults agreed

to go to the hospital for help, according to Bramlett.

A supplemental report regarding the June 30, 2018, incident filed by Deputy Brian Wingate shows that Fults actually put his knife down twice during that encounter with law enforcement.

“I spoke to Deputy (Matthew) Peardon whom advised me Josh was holding a knife to his wrist, and the ex-girlfriend and her child were evacuated from the rear of the location,” according to Wingate. “Lt. Brackett convinced Josh to put down and walk away from the knife, with the agreement he could speak to his ex-girlfriend.

“I observed Josh walk away from the knife, and I heard the sound of three non-lethal rounds being fired at Josh, which had no effect. The non-lethal rounds were fired by Investigator Arp, at which time all units rushed Josh to prevent him from again re-obtaining the knife.

“Josh was able to make it back to and (re-secure) the knife before we could reach him. On Josh reacquiring the knife and placing it to his neck, we close(d) the gap, but ourselves were dangerously close.

“Due to being in such close proximity with Josh while he was armed with a knife, I unholstered my duty weapon and aimed at Josh’s chest. Several Tasers were fired at Josh in an attempt to disarm Josh.

“I maintained my point of aim in case Josh attempt(ed)

to attack myself or the other law enforcement officers on scene. I held my point of aim while we backed up, and I held it until everyone was at a safer distance from Josh, at which time I re-holstered my duty weapon.”

Wingate went on to describe Fults later putting down his knife for the second time after Jackson appeared on the scene, kicking it away before being allowed to make contact with Jackson.

Deputy Wingate also added that, while en route to Fannin Regional Hospital that day, Lt. Brackett stopped his patrol car three times, once to give Fults a bag to vomit in, another because Fults was “using his belt to try and choke himself,” and again because Fults was “banging his head against the cage in the vehicle.”

Following the third pullover, Fults was handcuffed and his legs were restrained, after which he was transported to the hospital with the help of emergency lights and sirens “due to Josh’s attempts at hurting himself.”

Another supplemental report regarding the June 30, 2018, incident filed by Deputy Peardon said that Fults once more became self-combative after reaching Fannin Regional.

“Lt. Brackett arrived at the hospital with the male subject in the backseat of the patrol car,” according to Peardon. “When I opened the driver’s side back door of the car, I observed the male subject attempting to choke himself with the handcuffs.

“I then ran around the rear of the car to get to the

passenger’s side. Lt. Brackett pulled him out of the car and put him on the ground. I then assisted him, trying to unlock the handcuff so he would not continue to choke himself with the handcuffs.

“I finally got the handcuff off and placed him in the hospital bed outside of the hospital. We then rolled him inside to the ER on the bed. He was still resisting inside the ER. We finally got both handcuffs locked onto the bed and secured his legs to the bed. We then released the male to the hospital staff.”

Deputy Peardon wrote in his report, dated July 1, 2018, that the Fannin County Sheriff’s Office would be “taking warrants at a later date for criminal trespass and obstruction of a police officer,” though no charges were ever filed, according to the Sheriff’s Office.

Peardon also stated in his supplemental report that Fults had at times held the knife against his neck, and that Fults said “he drank a 12-pack of alcohol prior to this incident.”

The Fannin County Sheriff’s Office fielded another complaint by Jackson about two months later, on Sept. 11, 2018, when deputies responded to Fults’ residence



Amber Jackson and her 3-year-old son Ethan. Photo/Facebook

in McCaysville “in reference to a suicide threat,” according to the Incident Report.

When deputies arrived at Fults’ home on Sept. 11, 2018, they found him walking around on his porch, according to the Incident Report.

Once a commanding officer arrived on scene, deputies entered the home and found Fults asleep inside, according to the Incident Report.

Fults was taken into custody that evening under an Emergency Admission Certificate, or Form 1013, that had been signed by a judge, and he was transported to Fannin Regional Hospital for treatment “due to possibly taking too much medication.”

He was subsequently released, and no charges were filed in that incident either, according to the Fannin County Sheriff’s Office.