



NAT GURLEY | The Times

Cole, 11, gives his service dog Price a hug as his mom Tracy Padgett stands nearby in their Gainesville home.

## DOG: Boy bonds with service animal at training

Continued from 1E

was the third puppy she trained to become a service dog. Baker kept Price until he was 18 months old and taught him basic house manners and commands before sending him to advanced training in Orlando.

Baker met the Padgetts a few days before they graduated from the training program together. The North Carolina woman said seeing Cole and Price interact that day reminded her of why she works so hard to train the dogs.

"I think they're perfect together. They're a perfect match," Baker said, her voice cracking. "One of the biggest questions we always get is how can we raise them and give them up. ... But when you see how special they are together, how special the bond between Cole and Price is, it just answers the question."

Baker said more qualified volunteer puppy trainers are always needed. She encourages anyone who is interested in becoming a trainer to visit the Canine Companions for Independence website at CCI.org.

Because of the advanced training, Price knows 40 commands and can open doors, press buttons, retrieve fallen items and push drawers closed for Cole. They still practice the commands and go over the rules with Price, but the family's new member has already become a useful addition.

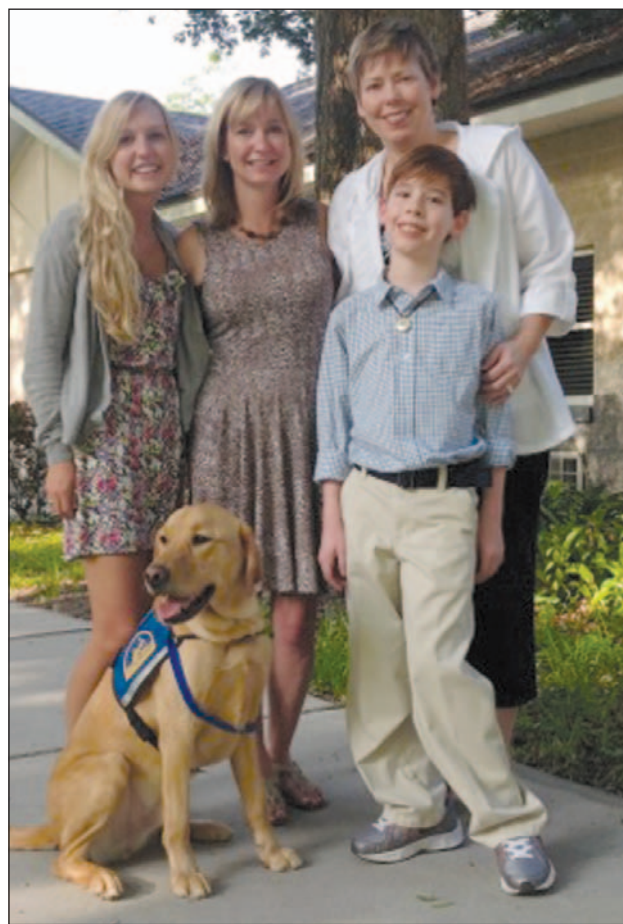
"Price can pick up" anything Cole drops, his father said. But that's not all he can do.

The four-legged friend is a source of social interaction. Cole explained he's wanted a service dog for a long time and is excited about having his "great friend."

"I think he would give me someone to hang out with and play with and throw the ball for him," Cole said, smiling.

Tracy Padgett said the dog will act as a "social bridge" for Cole.

"Kids can be cruel even to typical kids," Tracy said. "Cole's had instances where



For The Times

**Above left:** Tracy and Cole Padgett, right, meet their service dog's trainer. Catherine Baker, center, trained Price before sending him to advanced training in Orlando, Fla. **Above right:** Price, a Labrador and golden retriever mix, wears a blue vest signifying him as a service animal. The vest allows him to accompany Cole in stores and restaurants. It clearly states "Please don't pet me. I'm working."

kids aren't very nice. Of course, they're curious because of the way he walks, but some of them are just mean. A lot of times what Price does is take the attention away from Cole. So people see the dog and then people see Cole as this really neat kid who has a cool dog who's extremely well behaved. He gets to take his dog to the stores and restaurants and stuff."

Tracy Padgett and Cole work with the service dog as a team, because Cole is still a minor. When in public, the three are always together.

One of the most surprising aspects of being out in public with a service dog is how many people just walk up and start petting the animal without asking. The blue vest Price wears has a large sign asking people

not to pet him because he's working.

"But that's one thing Cole can do as well," Kip Padgett said. "If someone comes up wanting to pet him, sometimes they'll ask and Cole can say 'Well you can't pet him, but if you put your hand out I'll have him shake your hand.'"

Cole said it's just one of his new best friend's cool tricks and he's glad to finally have him.

Price seems just as attached to Cole. Whether they're in public or at home, Price never leaves Cole's side. "Price is by his side all day long," Tracy Padgett said. "He sits by him if he's playing video games, if he's reading books. He sleeps with him at night. He's just his best friend."



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# Not thinking twice to save us

I recently read a news story about a father who was at the pool with his child. The child started struggling in the water, and the father realized his child was drowning. He ran to the side of the pool, kicked off his shoes and threw his cellphone to a friend. Then he dove in and saved his child.

It was an inspiring story, to say the least. Yet, I had a slight problem with the father's actions. Read the previous paragraph again and see if you catch it.

He stopped long enough to kick off his shoes and toss his cellphone to safety. His child was drowning right in front of him, and he took the time to consider his shoes and cellphone!

If it had been me, I wouldn't have thought twice. I would have jumped into the water regardless of my shoes, cellphone or anything else I had in my pockets. I would have spared nothing. Just as God spared nothing when he sent his own son to die for our sins.

Have you ever really considered what it cost God to send Jesus to die for us? Jesus was perfect, yet he was sent to die for imperfect creatures. Jesus was sinless, yet he was sent to die for sinners. Jesus was holy, yet he was sent to die for the unholy. God gave up so much to save us, and he spared nothing — even though it cost him his son.

Now consider what



**PARRISH MYERS**  
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Eyes of the Father

Jesus gave up when he came to save us. Like his heavenly father, he spared nothing when he came. In 2 Corinthians 2:6-8, we find out even though Jesus was equal with God, he emptied himself and took on human form. He took on the lowliest of human forms, a servant.

As if it wasn't enough, he then humbled himself and became obedient to death on a cross. It was a very brutal form of execution.

Why is it God spared nothing? Why is it Jesus spared nothing?

I believe they spared nothing, because they knew what they had to gain was us. What they had to gain was you. You and I were worth everything to them. So, they spared nothing in making a way for us to be with them for all eternity.

Have you responded to their sacrifice? If not, receive Christ today.

**The Rev. Parrish Myers is a local minister living in Braselton. His column appears biweekly in Sunday Life and on [gainesvilletimes.com/life](http://gainesvilletimes.com/life).**

### GOOD NEWS SUBMISSIONS

The Times will gladly accept articles and photographs of charitable donations, civic meetings information and other community events for the Good News section published in the Sunday edition as space allows. Make submissions via email to [life@gainesvilletimes.com](mailto:life@gainesvilletimes.com) and include a contact name and phone number.

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## HARRY: Adams spry at 88 years old

Continued from 1E

day. His only health issue requires him to eat a gluten-free diet, which he has mastered very well.

The potion that has kept Harry Adams going strong at 88 is life itself. He became a widower nearly 20 years ago and could have given up. He tended a full house and beautifully landscaped gardens until just a few years ago.

Long life has been an attribute in his family and he may have been handed the right set of genes.

He said when his time comes, he wants to go quickly. But that's not on the

agenda. He seems to have found a way to drink a fresh cup of life each morning and uses every ounce of it and awakens to find a refill the next day.

**Harris Blackwood is a Gainesville resident whose columns appear on the Sunday Life page and on [gainesvilletimes.com/harris](http://gainesvilletimes.com/harris).**

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