

CHASE

From Front

Echols County Deputy Sheriff Ed Yarbrough was on patrol at the 12 Mile Marker on Highway 129 when he spotted a truck matching the description of the stolen vehicle. Lowndes County dispatch confirmed the vehicle description. The deputy attempted a traffic stop, but the truck’s driver refused to pull over.

The chase was on. The suspect reportedly was stopped three different times but wouldn’t surrender to authorities. During the pursuit, the suspect was traveling in and out of traffic and running other drivers off the road, according to Echols County Sheriff Randy Courson.

A civilian truck tried to block the suspect’s truck, which struck the other vehicle and ran over a traffic sign as it continued eastbound. The suspect’s truck started traveling eastbound in the westbound lane, into oncoming traffic, on Highway 84 in Clinch County for several miles.

The suspect tried to cross back over into the eastbound lanes. The truck hit the Lowndes County deputy’s vehicle and continued on at more than 100 mph.

The vehicle chase went through the City of Homerville and then northbound on Highway 441 towards Atkinson



County.

Echols County Sheriff Courson alerted Atkinson County Sheriff David Moore. Sheriff Moore sent deputies to a bridge located on Highway 441, at Red Bluff Creek, to try and stop the suspect.

The suspect’s truck reached the bridge at speeds over 70 mph. The truck hit the two Atkinson County patrol vehicles and possibly totaled them out.

The truck finally collided into the back of the parked semi and was totaled.

Officers took Shank into custody without further incident. He was then transported to Coffee Regional Medical Center. Shanks faces multiple felony charges. Blood tests were taken to see if the offender was under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

The chase totaled 47 miles and lasted about an hour. Sheriff Courson would like to thank all of the agencies involved for their assistance in bringing the pursuit to a safe conclusion.

Brandon Lee Helms remains missing
Three years since his mysterious disappearance from Lanier County home

By Janet Studstill

The mystery surrounding the disappearance of Brandon Lee Helms remains. On December 14, it will be 3 years since the Lanier County man went missing from his residence located on the Teeterville Highway near Lakeland, Georgia. Although the area surrounding his home was thoroughly searched, his disappearance continues to haunt those who loved and knew him.

It was a cold and rainy

day when Brandon, then 42, vanished from his home leaving behind his truck, clothes, phone and cigarettes. Brandon who is 6’0” and weighed 145 pounds was living with a friend at the time of his disappearance. Family members stated that Brandon was very cold-natured and simply do not believe he left the home on foot when he had his truck with a half tank of gas.

The Lanier County Sheriff’s Office and others searched the farms

and woodlands nearby his home. Most people feel that there was foul play in his disappearance.

On the third anniversary of his disappearance, his family have not received any closure concerning his disappearance. They have set up a website, OurMissingHearts@gmail.com. Brandon is a white male with brown hair and blue eyes. Anyone with any information regarding the Brandon Lee Helms case is asked to contact the Lanier



County Sheriff’s Office at 229-482-3540.

Lakeland/Lanier County Fire Calls

Dec. 4 - Fire units were called to a home on Lee Street with report of an electrical short. Units arrived to find that a wall outlet had shorted and was smoking. Firemen removed the outlet and checked for fire damage but none was found. The outlet was secured and the owner was told to contact an

electrician.

Dec. 6 - Fire units were called to an auto accident on Valdosta Highway at Shaw Insurance. Units arrived to find that a truck rear ended a car, pushing it into the car in front of it. The driver of the first car hit was transported by EMS. The other two drivers were

OK. Firemen helped with clearing the street and left the scene with law enforcement.

Dec. 9 - Fire units were called to assist EMS with loading a patient on Jackson Street. Units arrived and helped with loading the patient into the ambulance for transport.

Lakeland Police Department Incident Reports

Arrests

At 10:35 a.m. Dec. 3, an officer was standing inside the Police Department office when he noticed two men fighting in the entranceway to the Police Department. Onterris English was arrested and charged with simple battery.

Stabbing

At 11:11 a.m. Dec. 9, an officer was dis-

patched to SGMC Lanier Campus ER in reference to treatment of a stabbing victim.

Burglary

During the early morning hours of Dec. 9, an officer was dispatched to a burglary that had occurred at a Chadwick Circle residence. The glass window on a door had been broken. The case was under investi-

gation at last report.

Theft

On Dec. 9, an officer was dispatched to a Chestnut Ridge residence in reference to a stolen gun, a Savage 11 rifle with a black stock and barrel. The case was under investigation at last report.

Property damage

At about 3:17 p.m. Dec. 5, an officer was dispatched to a West Main Street residence in reference to damage to a vehicle. The rear bumper and tail light

covers of a 2005 Nissan Altima had been damaged.

Suspicious persons report

At 8:45 a.m. Dec. 6, an officer was contacted by telephone to take a report concerning suspicious persons visiting an East Linda Street residence.

Medical issue response

At 9:07 a.m. Dec. 6, an officer was dispatched with EMS to an East Main Street residence in reference to a non-responsive man.

Unruly juvenile

On Dec. 7, an officer was dispatched to an East Simpson Avenue residence concerning an unruly juvenile.

Gas drive-off

At 8:33 p.m. Dec. 5, an officer was dispatched to Jet Food Store in reference to someone driving off without paying for gas pumped into a vehicle.

Good News

By Vic Dove

Hidden Quality

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance; character; and character, hope.”

Romans 5:3-4

He was a five star United States Army General and was named the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe during World War II. After the war was over he became president of Columbia University and later the 34th President of the United States. While serving two terms as President, he enlarged the Social Security program, launched the space program and began the interstate highway system. He led the demise of the government of Iran and introduced the Civil Rights Act of 1957. And, he will always be remembered for adding “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954, and also adopting “In God We Trust” as the motto of the United States...by now you know I am referring to Dwight D. Eisenhower.

President Eisenhower was known as a man of integrity and character with strong morals and values. He was a proven leader that was very much a man of God and it goes without saying we could sure use more strong unselfish leaders like him today... one of his many quotes was, “A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both...”

People like our 34th President have what we call Hidden Qualities...although they may not be visible from the outside; these qualities are seen and observed through their actions and deeds.

I think we live in a society that is totally committed to the outer person and neglects the inner person. Most, if not all, our problems stem from a lack of character among our leaders and citizens. Our biggest deficit in this nation is not a budget deficit; it is a character deficit.

It is an old story. We would much rather complain about the way things are than make the sacrifice to change them, and character certainly takes sacrifice. Christians above any other group should be known for their character. That is easier said than done.

If you don’t have a personal plan for developing character, you won’t. You will fall in line with everybody else. The only difference is that you will go to heaven when you die. My point is we don’t drift into character. It takes effort; it takes a plan.

Begin by thinking through the kind of person you want to be, not what you want to accomplish. Start a list, don’t let it get too long, and don’t try to complete it all at once. After you have made the list, look for practical ways to work these qualities into your life. You will be amazed at how fast your personal plan will reveal itself.

Bulletin Board

FAMILIES RECOVERING TOGETHER PROGRAM

This holiday season, Lanier Family Connection is inviting you to support our mothers enrolled in our Families Recovering Together program. We have 6 mothers who are traveling down the difficult road to addiction recovery and will be spending the holidays away from their children. As we all know, the holidays can be a stressful time even without the unique challenges these mothers are facing. We would like to provide each mother with a holiday self-care kit that will help them use effective coping skills and help prevent relapse over the holiday season.

We’d like each kit to have: An adult coloring book, Colored pencils, markers, or gel pens, A journal, Chocolate, 1 Bath bomb, 1 Face mask, Coffee mug w/ stress relief tea, Candle, A letter of prayer or support to help motivate them through recovery

This seems like a small act of kindness but we know it would mean the world to the mothers who are working so hard on their recovery. If you’d like to sponsor a mother, please contact the Families Recovering Together facilitator, Teresa Morrison at (229) 585-1984 or at Teresa.morrison23@gmail.com. We kindly ask that self-care kits be delivered by Wednesday, December 19. Thank you in advance for your support!

BEGINNER BEEKEEPING SERIES FOR 2019

Are you interested in starting a hive or two of honey bees? The Lanier County Extension Office is currently planning a series of beginner beekeeping courses in 2019, not restricted to Lanier County residents. The series would include a hive assembly workshop, bee biology, how to install a package of bees, common pests and diseases, honey harvest, and more. Meetings will be held approximately one Saturday per month. Students may elect to purchase packages of live honey bees and bee hive starter kit through the Extension Office or obtain their equipment and bees elsewhere. Specific pricing will be released once we have enough people sign up.

For more information or to sign up, please call the Extension Office at 229-482-3895. The deadline to sign up is November 30 to allow time to order packages of bees.

TODDLER TIME AT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Toddler Time will resume at the Lakeland Library on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Toddlers, ages 1-4, and their caretakers are invited for a time to sing action songs, read books, and create art based on letters of the alphabet.

ADULT EDUCATION GED CLASSES

Lanier County Adult Education GED classes accepting New Students. Classes meet at 1042 W. Thigpen Ave. Classes are offered Tues.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (noon) and Tues.-Thurs. evenings from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Call 229-482-3332 or visit www.wiregrass.edu/adulted for more information.

Submissions: The deadline for all submissions is noon on Tuesday. Submissions received after this time will be held until the following week’s issue. For more information, please call us at 229-482-8230 or 229-896-2233.

ATTENTION VETERANS

The VFW Bus from Nashville will be running every Thursday, to the V.A. Hospital in Lake City, FL.

Pick up point is Lanier County Courthouse, 56 W. Main St. at 7:45 a.m.

For Information Call
Bob Battle 229-686-9169
or Mike Michern 229-460-9326.

FOR RENT
On Jekyll Island, Ga

“Emerald Cottage” near the beach. Emerald has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with Jekyll Room, sleeps 10 guests. Two flat screen TV’s, 2 bicycles, all new furnishing. **Weekly Rent \$1,250** Linens and Towels Provided. All you bring is food and paper products! **Parker - Kaufmann Realtors** Toll Free: 1-888-453-5955 Call from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Sat to Reserve!