

# REPORTS

## Police and Sheriff

During the period of June 16-21, 2020, the Donalsonville Police Department investigated the following incidents: two accidents, three domestics, four alarms, one send police, nine assist motorist, two BOLOs, 11 warnings, two thefts, one welfare check, one suspicious persons, one criminal damage, one fraud/scam, one off road vehicle complaint, one fight, two call by phone, two recovered property, one animal complaint, one civil papers served, two off road vehicle on city streets, one aggravated assault, two terroristic threats and acts, one driving without license, two open container, one reckless driving, one DUI, one fleeing / attempting to elude police, one failure to stop for traffic signal, ten counts running stop signs, one disorderly conduct.

### Arrests:

June 21 - Dylan Samuel Parker, aggravated assault, terroristic threats and acts, driving without license, open container, reckless driving, DUI, fleeing / attempting to elude police, failure to stop for traffic signal, nine counts running stop signs

June 12 - Harold Jude Baxter, open container, disorderly conduct, terroristic threats and acts

Woodrow W. Blue, Jr.,  
Chief of Police  
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During the week of June 15th to June 21st, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office responded to the following calls for service: 2 fights, 1 juvenile complaint, 1 off-road vehicle complaint, 1 missing person, 1 request to stand by, 2 damage to property, 1 criminal trespass, 1 report of threats 1 harassing phone calls, 1 recovered property, 3 frauds, 1 concern for welfare, 11 domestics or other complaints, 1 report of gun shots fired, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 road hazard, 4 reckless drivers, 3 accidents, 1 medical call, 1 report of livestock in the roadway, and 7 miscellaneous calls.

One subject was transported to Thomasville per orders of mental health. Officers provided court security 2 times and assisted 5 strand-

ed motorists. They conducted 19 traffic stops.

On June 15th, Ashely N. Murkerson, age 32, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for false statements.

On June 16th, Wendell A. Riley, age 36, was arrested by Department of Community Supervision and charged with probation violation.

On June 19th, Tiffany M. Sharp, age 30, was arrested and charged with suspended license.

On June 19th, James W. Freeman, age 44, was arrested by Department of Community Supervision and charged with probation violation.

On June 20th, Selene K. Watford, age 59, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane.

On June 21st, William T. Murkerson, age 50, was arrested by Georgia State Patrol, and charged with damaging public property, DUI, and failure to maintain lane.

On June 21st, Harold J. Baxter, age 21, was arrested by Donalsonville Police Dept and charged with open container, disorderly conduct, and terroristic threats.

On June 21st, Dylan S. Parker, age 18, was arrested by Donalsonville Police Dept and charged with aggravated assault, DUI, fleeing and attempting to elude, reckless driving, driving without license, open container, and 3 counts failure to stop at stop sign.

On June 21st, Tyrell Oneal, age 20, was arrested by Georgia State Patrol on outstanding warrant for wrong class license, failure to maintain lane, obstruction of an officer, and fleeing and attempting to elude.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office / E911 Dispatch handled 62 calls for Donalsonville Police Dept, 35 for Grady EMS, 8 for Donalsonville Fire Dept, 5 for Spring Creek Fire Dept, 1 for the coroner, 5 for Georgia State Patrol, 23 for other law enforcement or emergency service agencies, and 6 others.

The office received a total of 127 calls to 9-1-1 including 29 non-emergency calls.

Heath Elliott,  
Sheriff / E911 Director

## Hate Crimes Bill passes

— HATE CRIMES from Page 1

"historic" moment.

"I think we're really at sort of a tipping point right now, and this has been brought about by some of the recent events that have been put visually in front of us on video that are impossible to defend," Coswert said.

The bill would mandate enhanced sentencing for defendants convicted of targeting a victim because of their "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability, or physical disability." That would mean additional potential prison time or fines on top of sentences for the type of crime for which the defendant was convicted, such as manslaughter or murder.

Previous efforts to pass a hate crimes bill in the state have faltered. The Georgia general assembly in 2000 passed a hate crimes bill that called for enhanced sentencing for crimes motivated by "bias or prejudice," but in 2004, the bill was struck down by the Georgia Supreme Court as unconstitutionally vague. HB 426, crafted with more specific language, gained bipartisan support and narrowly passed the Georgia House last year. But it stalled in a Senate committee before the legislature adjourned over coronavirus concerns in March.

Since Arbery's killing there's been a "newfound resurgence of interest in making sure Georgia gets this on the books," Georgia Representative Karen Bennett, chairwoman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, told CBS News last month. When the legislature resumed this month, advocates backing the bill gathered at the state Capitol, holding up signs showing Arbery and George Floyd, the black man whose death in police custody in Minnesota sparked national outrage and protests.

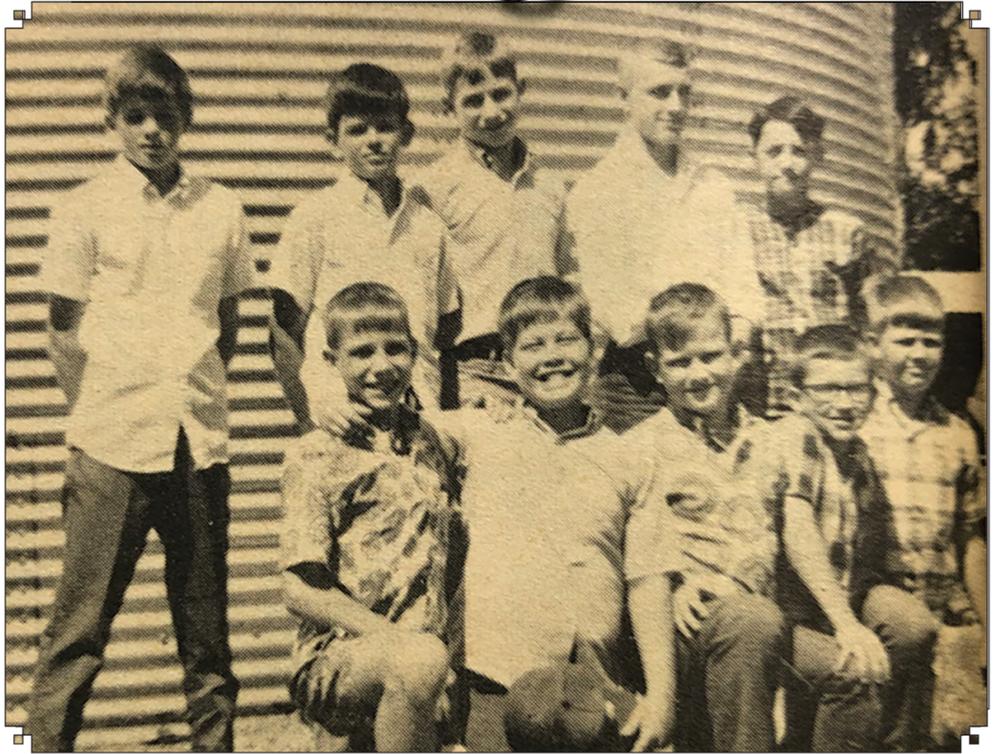
In speaking their support for the bill on the Senate floor, several Senators shared their personal experiences with hate and discrimination. Democratic Senator Donzella James, who is black, said she was accosted as a child by a group of white students who yelled racial slurs and threw a bottle at her as she waited for a bus. Republican Senator Renee Unterman, who is Jewish, emotionally recalled having death threats and anti-Semitic literature delivered to her home when she was the Mayor of the Georgia town of Loganville in the 1980s.

"It's time for Georgia to rise up and show that we will not stand for crimes done out of hate," James said. "Yes, we cannot legislate love, but we can put stronger penalties in place that may deter those who are committing these crimes from doing it."

The bill's passage came the same day as the funeral for Rayshard Brooks, a black man who was shot dead by an Atlanta officer while fleeing with the officer's Taser.

While states are the primary prosecutors of hate crimes, the federal government also has the authority to bring charges under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The Department of Justice can act as a "backstop" to prosecute hate crimes in states without the statutes or where state laws don't cover the crime. The Department of Justice has said it is reviewing the Arbery case to determine whether federal hate crime charges are appropriate.

# Looking Back!



1967 Seminole County 4-H Club's Judging Team

From left, front row, are Joe Youmans, Wade Spooner, Bob Youmans, Keith Odum and Brad Clarke; back row, Les Bridges, Dave Roberts, Gus Youmans, Mike Carr and Rusty Hall. Not shown is Gary Spooner. Royce Hall and Ray Payne were the boys' advisors.

We want your historical Seminole County photos to be a part of the 2020 Seminole County Centennial pictorial publication.

Drop your images off for scanning at the Donalsonville News' office or send them to [history@donalsonvilnews.com](mailto:history@donalsonvilnews.com)

## 25 YEARS

This week in 1995

- ❖ Retiring president of the Lions Club recently passed the gavel to incoming president Hugh Carr.
- ❖ Members of the board of Donalsonville Hospital, Inc. recently put the golden shovel in the ground to officially signal the start of another enlargement and renovation project.
- ❖ Five adults and 20 students spent Saturday morning washing cars and trucks to raise money to help pay for new uniforms for the SCHS Green Machine.
- ❖ Residents of Great Gran's recently enjoyed an ice cream party put on by Virginia Harrison.
- ❖ Jennifer L. Byrd, daughter of Margaret B. Spooner of Donalsonville and Rick Byrd of Croton, Ohio graduated June 17 in the 192nd commencement exercises at the

University of Georgia. Jennifer received a bachelor in environmental health with a major in environment health sciences.

❖ Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey C. Braswell of Iron City announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Erin Braswell.

❖ The Jubilees met for their June meeting at Helen's Pirate Cove, Colquitt. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of their own choosing. They sang "Happy Birthday" to Bonnie Swanner, Barbara Armstrong, and Eddie Newberry. Several games of bingo were played. Those winning games and prizes included Cordelia Brookins, Susie Gardner, Bonnie Swanner, Mary Alice Davis, and Bobby Fulford.

❖ Twenty-four fifth and sixth graders recently attended Summer 4-H camp at Camp Wahsega near

Dahlonega. The campers included Will Hornsby, Trey Thomas, Justin Kelly, Zack Bridges, Heather Brown, Garrison Horne, Bob Johnson, Craig Atwater, Kyle Hall, Ebony Fudge, Kelly Reid, Diana Griggley, Tiffany Stuart, Miranda Earnest, Michelle Moncrief, Jenny Faircloth, Kelly Mixon, Paige Bramlett, Brandie Wilson, Luke Williams, Brandi Nunn, David Barrett, Rene Smith and David Davis.

❖ New officers of the Donalsonville Lions Club include vice presidents Greg Whittaker, Tommy Dobbins, Bobby Powell, director Mark Hanna, past president Brad Clarke, president Hugh Carr, director Bill Fowler, Lion tamer Raymond Wilson, secretary and treasurer Sherry Shattles, director Wade Spooner, and tail twister Ed King.

## 50 YEARS

This week in 1970

- ❖ Don't miss the annual truckload sale happening this week at Jernigan's IGA in Donalsonville. You will find mid-year special deals on every aisle.
- ❖ Lack of rainfall is becoming the weekly forecast in Southwest Georgia. Word is there is no end in sight for the current drought.
- ❖ Benny Hodges, who is attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan White.
- ❖ Miss Cheryl Crawford, who recently completed another year at Wesleyan College in Macon, has been placed on the Winter semester Honors List due to her high academic standing. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Crawford.

❖ The winner of both trophies in the annual Pinewood Derby this year was Jeremy Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller. Jeremy took first place in the judging for design of his racer, then his prize winner outran all the others for the speed championship. The program is aimed toward bringing a father and his son together on a project. Jeremy's winning entry was a low-slung red model.

❖ Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dean and Mrs. Mildred Scott of Paramore, Florida spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Archie Whitaker.

❖ Born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williams on June 1 was a son who has been named James Earl for his great-grandfathers, Mr. Jim Robinson and Mr. Earl Harvey. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs.

Raber Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Harvey.

❖ Among those on the Dean's List for the Spring quarter at Valdosta State College were Daniel Winslow, a Senior and Marjorie L. Whitman, a Junior.

❖ Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Parker have returned from a visit with their sons in Holland and Norfolk, VA. They also visited with Mrs. Hazel Willis.

❖ Reverend Albert S. Trulock will be the speaker at the annual Ladies Night meeting of the Donalsonville Lions Club, to be held on Tuesday evening, at the grammar school cafeteria. It will begin at 7:30 o'clock. Reverend Trulock's first station as a Methodist minister was at Friendship Methodist Church in Donalsonville in 1922.

## 75 YEARS

This week in 1945

- ❖ The Donalsonville Garden Club held its last meeting of the year at the home of Mrs. J. H. Hanna Tuesday afternoon. Beautiful mixed Summer flowers were used for decoration. Delicious strawberry sundaes and cake were served.
- ❖ Monday and Tuesday showing at the Olive Theatre, *Little Old New York*, starring Alice Faye and Fred MacMurray.
- ❖ Miss Eula Dickenson, student at Draughn's Business College, Montgomery, Alabama, arrived this week to spend the Summer here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Dickenson.
- ❖ Hot, dry weather is prevailing in most of Seminole County. Corn, cucumbers and especially gardens are needing rain badly. The corn crops could go another week or two without serious damage from lack of rain

but gardens are dying and withering away from thirst. Cucumbers will fall short of crop expectations unless they get some rain. Cotton and peanuts seem to be the only crops that are not suffering from lack of rain.

❖ Mrs. E. A. Wilson spent several days in Jacksonville, Florida last week as the guest of her daughter, Miss Eloise Wilson.

❖ The Thursday afternoon Bridge Club was delightfully entertained by Mrs. J. J. Cummings at her beautiful country home last week. Vases and bowls of exquisite roses formed the decorations. Mrs. Jenkins was winner of high score and Mrs. Jno. I. Spooner made low score. Both ladies received dainty pieces of Fostoria as prizes. A salad plate was enjoyed by all.

❖ Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Driskell and young daughter, Barbara of Albany

spent the weekend here as guests of Dr. and Mrs. M. M. Minter.

❖ An announcement of interest throughout this section is the engagement of Miss Geraldine Butler, daughter of Mrs. Ida Spooner Butler, of Donalsonville, to Frank A. Jenkins of Columbus and Atlanta. Miss Butler is from a prominent Seminole County family, her mother having been Miss Ida Spooner before her marriage, the daughter of the late John Frank Spooner, and Emma Pickren Spooner. Ms. Butler was educated in Donalsonville, where she was very popular, having been outstanding in athletics. She later attended college at the Georgia State Woman's College at Valdosta.

❖ Miss Grace Canington of Atlanta is spending several days here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Canington.