

NEWS LOCAL & STATE

Crash on West Hill Ave. Slows Traffic During Morning Commute

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia – An accident on West Hill Avenue and the I-75 Northbound On-Ramp tied up traffic in the area for over two hours. The Valdosta Police Department (VPD), Valdosta Fire Department (VFD) and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) were summoned to the accident which occurred about 6:50 a.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

The accident involved two vehicles, both on West Hill Avenue. One driver failed to yield turning left causing the crash.

Both the driver and passenger in one of the vehicles were transported to SGMC-Valdosta with non-life-threatening injuries, according to VPD.

The accident slowed down commuters returning to work after the New Years Holiday. It affected traffic in the area for several hours, while First Responders worked the accident scene eventually clearing the wreck and debris.

The VPD has provided no further information. Their report does indicate that a traffic citation was issued for Failure to Yield Turning Left.

Are ATV Street Legal in Georgia: Nashville Police Reminds Citizens

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

NASHVILLE, Georgia – The Nashville Police Department (NPD) is reminding its residents to not drive UTVs in the city.

Georgia State Law says that in order to be a street legal vehicle in Georgia, ATVs and UTVs must meet specific equipment requirements. Proper lighting and signal devices, as well as safety features such as helmets, seat belts, and roll bars, may be mandated for these off-road vehicles.

Citizens should know that a state law has been passed to allow UTVs to be driven on county-maintained roads. A recent NPD Facebook post reminds anyone within the City of Nashville that UTVs are not allowed to be driven on city streets. Despite the law, NPD indicates that its officers have spotted multiple violations around the city.

In a quick call to the NPD, the Lanier County News was told, “Anyone seen violating this law could be subject to Citations and Fines for violation of OCGA: 40-6-362 (b), and possibly have their vehicle towed.”

New Year’s Eve Fireworks lead to Residential Fire

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia – On New Year’s Eve, the Valdosta Fire Department (VFD) responded to a fire. They report that fireworks was the cause for the fire.

According to VFD records, they were summoned to the 1400 block of Iola Drive in response to a structure fire about 2:00 a.m. VFD personnel indicate that they found smoke and fire coming from the attic of the apartment building when they arrived.

The VFD response time to the call is said to have been three minutes. Firefighters confirmed there was smoke visible from the roof of the two-story apartment building. Already on scene when the VFD personnel arrived, the Valdosta Police Department (VPD) had evacuated all of the occupants from the building.

VFD indicates that no one was injured as a result of the fire.

In response to this particular fire caused by fireworks, the VFD has stated, “Valdosta Fire Department would like to remind residents of the importance of fire safety when around fireworks, when setting them off, and being aware of where the fireworks may land.”

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For the record, any redactions in law enforcement reports published by LCN are made by the reporting agency.

Lanier County News does NOT redact law enforcement reports.

Lakeland Fire Department Report

12/27- Call to a rubbish fire on South Oak Street. Arrived to find a subject burning furniture and household debris. Firemen extinguished the fire and told the subject that it was not legal to burn rubbish.

12/29- Call to a report of kids starting a fire near a structure on Hwy 125. Arrived on scene but no fire was found. Dispatch called the person that reported

the fire and was told that her 6-year old had told her that kids were starting a fire and she called 911 before checking on the situation.

12/29- Call to a report of a neighbor’s porch on fire on East Bostick. Arrived to find the fire was out and firemen checked for flame spread. The cause of the fire was a shorted heat lamp.

Lanier County Sheriff’s Office Report

• **December 19, 1000 hours. Colby Lee Schwab (28)** charged with Criminal damage to property – 2nd degree. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Arresting officer: Anthony Lawrence. Housed for: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Property/Cash Bond: none listed/\$75,000.00

• **December 19, 1000 hours. Colby Lee Schwab (28)** charged with Criminal damage to property – 2nd degree. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Arresting officer: Anthony Lawrence. Housed for: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Property/Cash Bond: none listed/\$75,000.00

• **December 19, 1050 hours. Desmond Jermaine Sealey (34)** charged with Violation of probation. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Arresting officer: Benjamin Terrell. Housed for: Other. Property/Cash Bond: none listed/none listed.

• **December 19, 1730 hours. Tony Santez Reeves (40)** charged with Battery family violence, and Cruelty to children, 3rd degree-misdemeanor (4 counts). Arrested by: Lakeland Police Department. Arresting officer: Mike Warnsing. Housed for: Other. Property/Cash Bond: not listed/not listed.

• **December 19, 1050 hours. Desmond Jermaine Sealey (34)** charged with Violation of probation. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Arresting officer: Anthony Lawrence. Housed for: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Property/Cash Bond: none listed/\$75,000.00

• **December 20, 0850 hours. Maria Ramirez (46)** charged with Driving without a valid license (misdemeanor), and Speeding 21 to 24 miles over 55 MPH zone. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Arresting officer: Josh Luke. Housed for: Coffee County Jail. Property/Cash Bond: not listed/\$1,255.00

• **December 20, 1143 hours. Lilly**

Lakeland Police Department Report

• **December 17, 1602 hours.** Lakeland Police Department was dispatched in reference to a welfare check on Chestnut Circle. Offender’s name: Not Listed. Incident type: Not Listed. Reporting Officer: Gena Willis. Property type: not listed.

• **December 20, 2108 hours.** Lakeland Police Department Units were dispatched to West Howell Drive in reference to trespassing. Offender’s name: Not Listed. Incident type: Not Listed. Reporting Officer: Gena Willis. Property type: not listed.

• **December 21, 0008 hours.** Lakeland Police Department Units conducted a property check. Offender’s name: Not Listed. Incident type: Not Listed. Reporting Officer: Gena Willis. Property type: not listed.

• **December 21, 0021 hours.** Lakeland Police Department Units were dispatched to East Bostick in reference to a theft. **Offender’s name: James Stanley Lake.** Incident type: Theft by taking less than \$500. Reporting Officer: Gena Willis. Property type: not listed.

• **December 21, 1610 hours.** Lakeland Police Department had a walk in due to fraud. Offender’s name: Unknown. Incident type: Theft by taking less than \$500. Reporting Officer: Gena Willis. Property type:

Mae Vasquez (42) charged with Housed for drug court. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Arresting officer: None listed. Housed for Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Property/Cash Bond: none listed/none listed.

• **December 20, 1821 hours. Calvin Wiseman (22)** charged with Criminal trespass. Arrested by: Lanier County Sheriff’s Office. Arresting officer: James Vanover. Housed for: Ware County Jail. Property/Cash Bond: \$1,000.00/none listed.

• **December 22, 1008 hours. Nekaybaw Sirmans (29)** charged with Driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor). Arrested by: Georgia State Patrol. Arresting officer: Josh Luke. Housed for Georgia State Patrol. Property/Cash Bond: none listed/none listed.

• **December 29, 1101 hours. Roman Adrian Carranza (20)** charged with Driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor), and Speeding in excess of Maximumlimits ED (Misdemeanor). Arrested by: Georgia State Patrol. Arresting officer: Nicholas Morris. Housed for: Coffee County Jail. Property/Cash Bond: not listed/not listed.

• **December 29, 1204 hours. Migdailia Amparo Deleon (29)** charged with Driving while license suspended or revoked (felony) fourth or subsequent offence, Expired tag, and Speeding 11 to 15 miles over 35 & 45 MPH zone. Arrested by: Georgia State Patrol. Arresting officer: Nicholas Morris. Housed for: Other. Property/Cash Bond: not listed/not listed.

• **December 31, 1831 hours. Sarah Lee Colbert (68)** charged with Theft by taking – misdemeanor. Arrested by: Lakeland Police Department. Arresting officer: Gena Willis. Housed for: Not Listed. Property/Cash Bond: not listed/not listed.

not listed.

• **December 25, 0850 hours.** Lakeland Police Department took a report from a walk in to the Lakeland Police Department in reference to an unwanted person. Offender’s name: Not Listed. Incident type: Not Listed. Reporting Officer: Terry Grant. Property type: not listed.

• **December 30, 1416 hours.** Lakeland Police Department was dispatched to West Main Street in reference to a theft. **Offender’s name: Sarah Lee Colbert.** Incident type: Theft by taking less than \$500. Reporting Officer: Zachary Benka. Property type: not listed.

• **December 31, 1231 hours.** Lanier County Sheriff’s Office was dispatched to Highway 129 South for a theft. Lakeland Police Department Units were flagged down by an individual on Highway 129 South. **Offender’s name: TyShan Young.** Incident type: Theft by taking less than \$500, and Obstructing law enforcement officers. Reporting Officer: Kevin Christian. Property type: not listed.

• **December 31, 2147 hours.** Lakeland City Police Units were dispatched to East Bostick Street for a domestic dispute. **Offender’s name: Stanley Riley.** Incident type: Battery (Simple). Reporting Officer: Gena Willis. Property type: not listed.