

Lanier County News

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"Serving our community and protecting our freedoms according to His Word since 1913"

Thursday, January 11, 2024 Lakeland, GA

GBI Arrests Three in New Year's Eve Death Investigation

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

HAZLEHURST, Georgia – Kiel Smith (25) and Brad Smith (18), both of Lumber City have been arrested by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). Both men have been charged with Aggravated assault and Felony murder. In addition, Kaniya Maxwell Fletcher (24) of Hazlehurst has also been arrested. Fletcher has been charged with Conspiracy to commit a crime, and Felony murder. All three men have been linked to the murder of Leceddrick Mitchell on New Year's Eve.

The Hazlehurst Police Department asked the GBI to conduct a death investigation on Monday, January 1, 2024. According to the GBI, the investigation shows that Fletcher had an argument with Mitchell earlier on December 31, 2023, while at a party on Danny Street in Hazlehurst. Fletcher coordinated with Kiel and Brad to come to the party where Kiel and Brad shot and killed Mitchell.

The GBI Medical Examiner's Office in Pooler is scheduled to complete an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death. Tyler Deeds (22) of Hazlehurst, was also struck in the hip by gunfire and was life-flighted to Savannah Memorial Hospital, where he remains in stable condition.

On Thursday, January 4th, Kiel, Brad, and Fletcher were arrested without incident. All three men were booked into the Jeff Davis County Jail.

The GBI would like to thank the Georgia State Patrol (GSP), Georgia Department of Community Supervision (GDCS), Hazlehurst Police Department (HPD), and Jeff Davis County Sheriff's Office (JDCSO) for their assistance in the arrest operation.

This GBI investigation is active and ongoing.

The public's help is requested by law enforcement. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Hazlehurst Police Department at 912-375-6688 or the GBI regional investigative office in Douglas at 912-389-4103. Anonymous tips can also be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS (8477), online at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online/>, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.

The GBI indicates that once the investigation is complete, the case file will be given to the Brunswick Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

VPD Investigate Aggravated Assault on Park Avenue

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia – The public's help is requested with regard to an incident on Sunday, January 7 at about 1:30 a.m. According to the Valdosta Police Department (VPD), they were called into action with a citizen's call to E911. VPD responded to area around the 110 block of Old Statenville Road. During the E911 call, a citizen notified emergency services about a person, who had been shot while a vehicle was chasing them.

VPD officers arrived in the identified area. Those officers a female (28) with a gunshot wound to her torso.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Valdosta Fire Department (VFD) responded to provide medical assistance to the victim, who was transported to the hospital.

Through VPD investigation, VPD officers determined that the victim was riding in a car driven by female (23). There was also a male passenger (19) in the vehicle.

An acquaintance of the female (23) driver, later identified as Charlie Camiel (35) was driving around looking for her. When Camiel found the female's vehicle, he began to chase her car with his. Camiel went so far as to attempting to run her off the roadway.

The female (23) took evasive actions to drive away from Camiel. In response to her attempt, Camiel shot at her vehicle, striking it several times. The VPD report indicates that when Camiel shot at the woman's vehicle, one bullet struck, the female victim (28), who was sitting in the back seat. The female driver is said to have lost control of her car and struck a power pole.

The VPD issued a BOLO (Be On the Look Out) description of Camiel's vehicle. VPD officers found the vehicle at a residence in the 1500 block of East Park Avenue. Officers took Camiel into custody without incident after contacting Camiel inside his residence.

After the incident and arrest, VPD Detectives and Crime



Scene Personnel responded to examined the incident.

Camiel was taken to Lowndes County Jail, and he has been charged with:

- Aggravated assault- 3 counts-felony;
- Aggravated battery-felony; and
- Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony-felony.

According to VPD, Camiel is also facing numerous traffic charges.

The victim has been treated and released from the hospital.

VPD Chief Leslie Manahan has stated, "We are thankful that this incident did not result in more people being injured. This offender's reckless disregard for human life endangered numerous citizens in this residential area, on top of the victims. I am proud of the quick work of our officers, with the assistance of the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department, to ensure he was taken into custody quickly.

VPD has requested help from the public. VPD asks that if anyone has any information on this case, please contact the Valdosta Police Department Bureau of Investigative Services at 229-293-3145, or the crime tip line at 229-293-3091.

National Study Indicates Plastic Fragments in Bottled Water Can Be Dangerous

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

GEORGIA – The Lanier County News is reporting the results of a national study being picked up by national media in the last few days. The National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) article indicates that micro plastics the minute size of vaccine particles and viruses are being ingested by people who routinely drink bottle water from plastic bottles. They can pose a health problem, according to a new study.

According to the recent study, an average bottle of water contains fragments of tiny plastics – as many as 250,000 fragments - which can affect human body cells.

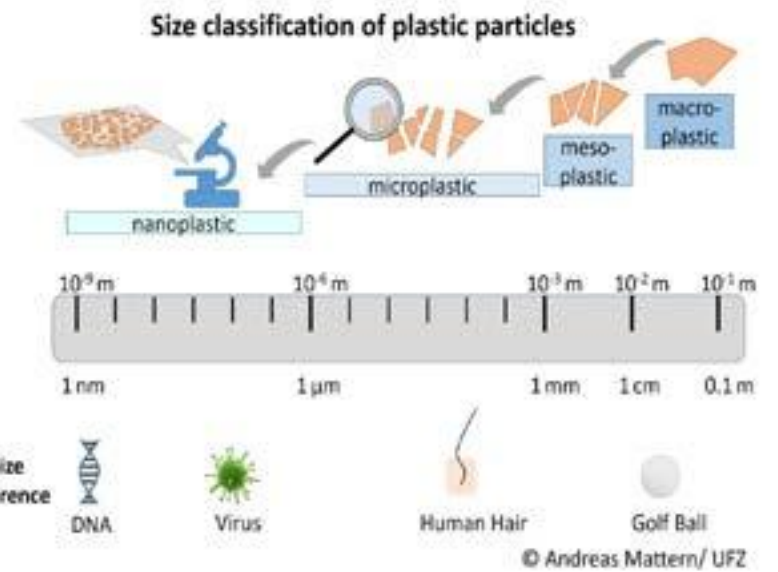
Scientists have measured these minute plastic particles all over the world – from the highest altitudes to the lowest points on earth.

For many, people began to suspect that plastic containers can be a health hazard for over a decade. That's when naturopathic doctors began recommending the use of metal cups and water bottles.

According to scientists, microplastics are comparatively large and easily measured. Eventually scientists began to become concerned with nanoplastics. Nanoplastics are much smaller. Nanoplastics have been able to become measurable with developing electron microscopic technology.

Scientists indicate that these tinier particles can create a greater danger when ingested. As much smaller compounds, nanoplastics can more easily go into the blood stream and then move into the body's cells. From there, the particles can prompt a body to go wrong.

In an article found in the December edition of The Lancet, scientists are finding an increasing number of dangerous impacts on the human body. Abnormal organ development, altered biochemical and energy metabolism, carcinogenicity, disrupted microbial metabolic pathways, immune dysfunction, impaired cell proliferation, inflammation and oxidation stress are some



of the problems that scientists have identified.

Laser imaging is helping scientist involved in the PNAS study obtain improved information.

Because plastic's chemical structure comes from petrochemicals, their chemistry is similar to living creatures.

The biggest concern seems to be the probable contribution to neural degeneration in older persons, which the particles contribute. In turn this can create problems in the human nervous system.

Scientists know that a fetus' nervous system is affected by environmental pollutants. The study suggests that nanoplastic poses challenges to the fetal brain tissues. There also seems to be evidence that these tiny particles are able to get into the digestive system which can impact the heart.

Researchers indicate that they have only taken the first step in examining the exposure of nanoplastics in the human body. More research is required and more information is slowly being provided to the public as it is learned.

Christmas and New Year's Traffic Count 24 Killed During Holiday Travel Period Crashes



(ATLANTA, GA) – Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Troopers investigated 14 fatal traffic crashes, and local law enforcement agencies investigated 10 fatal traffic crashes resulting in 24 deaths across Georgia during the 102-hour Christmas and 102-hour New Year's holiday travel periods. There were 15 fatalities during Christmas and nine during New Year's.

Local law enforcement agencies reporting fatalities during the Christmas holiday period which began Friday, December 22, at 6:00 p.m. and ended at 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, December 26, include the Atlanta Police Department, Cobb County Police Department, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, and DeKalb County Police Department.

Between Friday, December 29, at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, January 2, at 11:59 p.m., Cobb County Police Department, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, DeKalb County Police Department, Newton County Sheriff's Office, and South Fulton Police Department reported fatalities during the New Year's holiday period.

In addition to fatal crashes, Troopers investigated over 589 traffic crashes statewide, resulting in nearly 332 injuries during the Christmas period. Over 305 traffic crashes were investigated during the New Year's period resulting in approximately 156 injuries.

Troopers and Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD) Officers completed the following traffic activity:

	Christmas Holiday Period	New Year's Holiday Period
Traffic Stops	15,717	16,967
DUI	312	413
Seatbelt	687	762
Speeding	4,494	5,144
Distracted Driving	381	468
Citations	8,232	9,295
Warnings	10,156	10,240