

# Lanier County News

Covering Lanier & Northern Lowndes Counties

Volume 104 Number 3 — 1 Section 10 Pages

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Thursday, January 18, 2024 Lakeland, GA

## Meth Trafficking Arrest in Atkinson County When Valdostan Stopped on Traffic Violation



By Carol A. Gasser Moore

ATKINSON County, Georgia – Allen Morris (32) of Valdosta, following a traffic stop, was taken into custody and booked on charges of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, and trafficking methamphetamine on Thursday, December 28. The information was released by the Atkinson County Sheriff's Office (ACSO).

During a routine traffic stop, ACSO Deputies discovered 87 grams of assumed methamphetamine. It was another noteworthy drug bust, according to ACSO.

An ACSO report specifies that their officers performed a traffic stop on Highway 441 South (near Kira Loop). They made the traffic stop after a "lengthy investigation" of the Dodge Charger.

When stopped, ACSO officials searched the Dodge Charger. The search resulted in the discovery of the 87 grams of suspected methamphetamine.

No further information has been made available, since the ACSO released the arrest information.

## Lakeland's Gibbs Among Those Named as One of ABAC's Top 2023 Fall Nursing Graduates

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

TIFTON, Georgia – Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's (ABAC) Nursing Program recently honored its top Fall 2023 graduates during a pinning ceremony. From Lakeland, Allison Gibbs was honored with the South Georgia Medical Center Dedication to Nursing Award during the ceremony.

According to ABAC, the Dedication to Nursing Award is given in honor of the nurses both past and present for their hard work and dedication to excellence at South Georgia Medical Center.

The Clinical Excellence Awards recognize students who demonstrated excellence in evidence-based clinical practice and patient-centered care. This year's Clinical Excellence Award was presented to Kajal Patel by Tift Regional Medical Center. Patel is from Tifton

Victoria Pierce, Douglas, accepted the Academic Excellence Award. It was presented by Colquitt Regional Medical Center. ABAC indicates that the Academic Excellence Award goes to the graduate with the highest cumulative grade point average.

From Adel, Lizbeth Espinoza was one of three students who received the Lisa Purvis Allison Spirit of Nursing Award. Also receiving the award was Rebecca Lemmon from Hahira, and Brooke Tobin from Bainbridge. Espinoza was awarded the Spirit of Nursing Award for the B.S.N. degree, Lemmon for the A.S.N. traditional track in Tifton, and Tobin for the A.S.N. traditional track in Bainbridge.

The Spirit of Nursing Award honors the memory of Lisa Purvis Allison. Despite being diagnosed with colon cancer during her final year in the nursing program, Allison completed her degree, passed her state board



exam, and became a Registered Nurse. She passed away soon after accomplishing her goal. A scholarship fund in her honor was developed to assist students in fulfilling their dreams of becoming nurses.

"I am extremely proud of the recipients of these awards as well as the other graduates," said Dr. Jeffrey Ross, Dean for the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. "The long hours of studying, practicing skills, and preceptorship have culminated into this moment for them."

A total of 50 ABAC nursing students received associate degree pins, and 17 students received bachelor's degree pins at the ceremony.

"The nursing faculty, staff, our clinical partners, and ABAC administration are extremely proud of each of them for forging ahead and successfully completing this daunting program," said Ross. "The determination and flexibility they have consistently demonstrated will serve them well in their careers."

## Officer Involved Shooting in Hahira Investigated by GBI

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

HAHIRA, Georgia - GBI agents are investigating a Hahira Police Department (HPD) Officer involved shooting. The incident occurred Sunday, January 14, in Hahira when one minor was arrested. The initial investigating agency was the Hahira Police Department, but the HPD soon requested the help of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). According to the GBI records, no one was injured in this incident.

On Sunday, according to the GBI, the Hahira Police Department attempted to arrest two minors. The minors were suspected of breaking into multiple vehicles in the area. The preliminary information indicates that HPD Officers arrested one minor without incident.

A second minor is reported to have run away from the HPD Officers. Officers began searching the area for the minor and found him near Hall Road in Hahira, Lowndes County. As officers searched, the minor was seen getting into a white vehicle. The vehicle was described as a Dodge Challenger that was parked in the area. The



Challenger's driver turned out to be a relative of that minor. The relative indicated that he had contacted by the minor, who asked his relative to pick him up.

In an attempt to elude law enforcement officers, the driver (relative of the minor) attempted to flee the scene in the Dodge Challenger with the minor in question. When the Challenger's driver fled from the area, he drove

towards another HPD officer and two civilian witnesses. The three people were standing nearby. At that point, the driver made a U-turn in an attempt to escape.

During the encounter, one HPD Officer fired multiple shots. Those shots hit the Dodge Challenger. The Challenger driver was forced to come to a stop after driving a very short distance. HPD Officers blocked the vehicle's path. The Dodge Challenger's driver surrendered without further incident. No one was injured by the gunfire.

The GBI indicates that this case is active and ongoing. The GBI is inviting that anyone with information to call the GBI Regional Office in Thomasville at 229-225-4090. 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.

Once the investigation is complete, the GBI says that the case and investigation information will be given to the District Attorney's Office for review.



Kelsey Durrance with the Lanier County Probate Judge's Office treated the Lanier County Sheriff's Office with treats on the National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.



The Haven honored the Lanier County Sheriff's Office on the National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.



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