

Lanier County News

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

Thursday, April 25, 2024 Lakeland, GA

Three People Injured in 3-car Crash Near Pearson



By Carol A. Gasser Moore

ATKINSON COUNTY, Georgia – Pearson Police Department (PPD) has partnered with the Georgia State Patrol (GPS) this afternoon as they investigate a three-motor vehicle crash. The crash occurred today (Monday, April 22) on US-441 in a location just south of Pearson, about twenty miles northeast of Lakeland.

According to PPD Chief John Clayton, the three vehicle accident involved a Mack tractor-trailer, a blue Ram 2500, and a red Kia Soul. While details are still being investigated, PPD staff indicate the Kia was rear-ended by the Mack Truck. Their collision caused the Ram to be hit as well.

There are three injuries from the accident with one being very serious. Coffee Regional Hospital Emergency Room received two of the injured persons for treatment. The third person has been transported by Life Flight to an undisclosed medical treatment facility for more intensive treatment.

According to available information, the Mack Truck driver will receive charges which are pending as this writing is completed. Depending upon the medical health evaluation of the person who was the driver of the Kia, present proposed charges may be changed.

This is a developing story and will be updated as information is available. The accident investigation continues by the GSP.

Habitual Parking Violator Points Out Long Time Downtown Lakeland Parking Problems

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

LANIER COUNTY, Georgia – Empty parking spaces are marked with blue lines and warning signposts indicating the empty parking space is reserved for people with a registered disability. One such Lakeland parking space is being taken on a daily basis as if it is a full-day parking space. That vehicle's driver does not carry or display any legally authorized identification giving the driver a parking right. The person driving the vehicle daily has been identified as Lanier County Magistrate Judge Victoria Dove Jewel.

With the courthouse in the dead center of Lakeland, and at the crucially busiest intersection within city limits, this particular parking space and vehicle stand out. This specific parking space is visible to everyone passing through this area. The Lanier County News started getting calls and emails about the problem from citizens, who have started commenting on the problem over the last few weeks.

Federally, the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) was signed into law in 1955. Since that time, states have enacted laws that fall under the ADA like the one mandating designated handicap parking. Both a business owner and/or the person parking have laws which dictate what their behavior choices.

Businesses are required by law to designate and reserve parking specifically for the registered disabled. Drivers are mandated to park in unmarked parking UNLESS they display a legally registered disability sticker or license plate. Our nation's citizens are well into the third generation after the enactment of the ADA law and starting on our fourth generation's law education. The point is that ALL citizens are educated to know better!

The Lanier County News called officials in both the Lakeland Police Department as well as the Lanier County Sheriff's Office as this story was written. Interestingly within minutes of those phone calls, the example parked vehicle in question was moved to a non-reserved parking spot in the Lanier County Courthouse Parking Lot by Lanier County Magistrate Judge Victoria Dove Jewel.

When checking with law enforcement, the Lakeland



Police Department expects to respond to E911 calls about illegal parking. The Lanier County Sheriff's Office hasn't completed the conversation and this writer is waiting to hear back from the LCSO.

While the example given is the most concrete example, it is not the only one that can be made. Checking online, it's easy to locate a number of similar articles on the same problem that occur across the country. This fact is in addition to visual observation of vehicles parked in lots around our area.

The secondary problem, which relates directly to this story, is the LACK of parking in the Lakeland downtown area. In fact with new construction underway along

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A Wing, A Prayer and Perfect Weather for Annual April JLTRC Horse Show

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

LOWNDES COUNTY, Georgia – Twenty-two (22) accomplished horseback riders and their horses engrossed themselves in a highly skilled competition at Jacobs' Ladder Therapeutic Riding Center (JLTRC) on Saturday, April 13 th . Participating riders let their audience join with them to celebrate their equestrian arts achievements and watch those riders work as a team with their respective horses. The JLTRC Annual April Horse Show was staged in the Jacobs' Ladder Therapeutic Riding Center Arena. The Arena is located just outside of Hahira near State Highway 122 and Bradford Road North.

The center's Annual April Horse Show is a friendly competition for riders, who ranged in age from 6 years to 58 years old, and their horses. Some equestrian riders were new to the JLTRC riding program, and a few have ridden with JLTRC for years. These riders abilities ranged from beginners to high intermediates.

The beginner horseback riders have equestrian assistants, who may help lead their horses or walk beside a rider to help, if needed. The intermediate riders are more independent and some of them rode completely unassisted. The oldest JLTRC rider is a Veteran in the JLTRC Equine Services for Heroes Program. The Greater Valdosta United Way sponsored horseback riders in this program, as well as many other equestrian riders in the JLTRC therapeutic riding program.

Within the riding competition, each horseback rider competes in three classes as a team with their horse partner. The Rider Classes are Trail, Equitation, and Showmanship. Each competing member of the 3-person group earns one of three ribbons for 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd place ranking within their group.

No stranger at JLTRC, Mr. Tim Hall, who is from Ray City, is an experienced horseman himself and an equestrian judge. Hall has evaluated JLTRC equestrians and judged JLTRC horse shows for a number of years. .

Each class competition focuses on a different equestrian skill set developed by the rider and his or her horse. One type of class is the Trail Class. The Trail Class requires riders and horses to ride through a series of obstacles, while walking, trotting or cantering over and through those obstacles. The trail class is judged on the performance of the rider guiding their horse over the obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the rider's commands, and quality of movement. Credit is earned by riders whose horses negotiate the obstacles with style and some degree of speed.

The Equitation Class is a shorter class that represents the skills of the rider and their horse. In this class riders learn proper form and style, with riders being judged on position and style on the flat. Riders strive to be accurate and stylish while using invisible aids and trying to make their rounds seem completely effortless.

The Showmanship Class is a class that takes horse riders out of the saddle and puts them in a leadership position with their horse. This is the class that really concentrates on the horse and rider as a team. In this class, riders are asked to perform specific maneuvers with their horse (i.e., walk, trot, hindquarter pivots, moving forward and backward freely). The showman may be asked to pick up any or all feet of his or her horse, and know the parts of their horse.

There were eight leveled classes for the riders, with the higher skilled riders beginning the day and the younger, less experienced riders continuing until the horse show ended. Making it fun for family and friends who were watching the event, there were many happy faces and squeals of delight from the participants when they received their ribbons.

With the JLTRC yearly show over, the center's riders focus shifts to JLTRC Summer Camps and the Lowell Hammock Memorial Bowling Tournament and Silent Auction, to benefit Jacobs' Ladder, at Jac's Lanes on June 8th .For more information on the riding program, Equine Services for Heroes, Summer Camps or the Bowling fundraiser, please contact Leslie Jacobs at 229-794-1188.

