

Avoiding Nine Active Arrest Warrants Leads VPD in Pursuit and Arrest

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

LOWNDES COUNTY, Georgia – Valdosta Police Department (VPD) Chief Leslie Manahan has released information about the arrest of Jerod Shanquille Edwards (29) of Valdosta. Edwards was arrested shortly after 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17th by the VPD.

Manahan’s report indicates that a VPD Narcotics Unit member, who was familiar with Edwards, observed Edwards in the 2400 block of North Ashley Street driving a vehicle. The officer confirmed that Edwards had nine (9) active warrants for a 2024 domestic violence incident. According to VPD, the arrest warrants included robbery and burglary.

A traffic stop on the vehicle was initiated by the VPD detective. During the stop, Edwards suddenly put the vehicle in drive fleeing the scene and the traffic stop. VPD Patrol Officers in the area spotted Edwards driving south on Ashley Street. At the point that the officers spotted Edwards, they pursued him.

With officers following in the 800 block of North Ashley Street, Edward made the decision to stop the vehicle he was driving. Despite stopping, Edwards was still uncooperative and refused to get out of his vehicle. His refusal forced VPD Officers to force entry into Edward’s vehicle in order to remove him. Without further incident, Edwards was taken into custody.

VPD Officers transported Edwards to Lowndes County Jail, where he is being held on 9 active arrest warrants. He is now also facing additional charges of:

- Fleeing and attempting to elude law enforcement officers-felony;
- Reckless driving-misdemeanor; and
- Obstruction of an officer-misdemeanor.

The VPD invites anyone with any information on Edwards to contact the Valdosta Police Department Bureau of Investigative Services at 229-293-3145. Those persons may also contact the crime tip line at 229-293-3091. On-line, knowledgeable individuals can go to www.valdostacity.com/police-department/ and file a tip.



VPD Catches VHS Burglar In Burglary Act

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

LOWNDES COUNTY, Georgia – A burglar alarm at Valdosta High School (VHS) Softball Field on Wednesday, April 17th, about 12:30 a.m., brought a response by Valdosta Police Department (VPD). VPD Officers pulled into the alarm’s location area. The first officer arrived and immediately began a concession stand check. As he did, he observed a male suspect standing in the front of the building’s window which was open. Lamarcus Dewayne Thomas (20) of Valdosta (Roxbury Drive) gave a false name to a second officer, but was later identified correctly.

Items taken from inside the VHS Concession Stand were found on Thomas’ person.

Since his arrest, Thomas has been charged with burglary (felony), and providing a false name to law enforcement officers (misdemeanor). Thomas was transported to Lowndes County Jail without incident.

Thomas appears to have a prior arrest record in Tennessee according to a public database.

In response to Thomas’ arrest, Valdosta Police Department (VPD) Chief Leslie Manahan has stated, “This was outstanding work by our patrol officer, who arrived at the alarm so quickly. Because of his timely response, he caught the burglar in the act.”

With regard to this burglary case or any other incident, citizens are encouraged by the VPD to contact the Valdosta Police Department Bureau of Investigative Services at 229-293-3145, the crime tip line at 229-293-3091, or file a tip online at www.valdostacity.com/police-department/.