

## Folkston Police Department releases incident reports

The Folkston Police Department released the following incident reports from February 17 through February 25, 2021.

On February 17, Officer Wyatt Garvin was dispatched to Indian Trail in reference to a suspicious vehicle parked on the side of the roadway. Officer Garvin made contact with the 2016 Honda Civic, south of Albert Smith Street on Indian Trail. Officer Garvin could smell the strong odor of marijuana coming from within the vehicle. A search resulted in the recovery of a small amount of marijuana. The offenders, Cortavius Daemon Hines and Demetrus Oats, were placed under arrest and charged with VGC-SA less than one ounce (marijuana). They were transported to the jail where they were interviewed and turned over to the jailor on duty. This case is closed.

February 17, Officer Wyatt Garvin conducted

a traffic stop on a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt due to the license plate coming back to a 2003 Toyota Avalon. The driver, Drayven Dinell Mose, admitted he did not have a valid license or insurance on the vehicle. Officer Garvin confirmed this information through GCIC and placed Mose under arrest for tags alteration/improper plates/registration, license driving while unlicensed or expired, and no insurance. He was transported to the jail, issued citations, and turned over to the jailor on duty. The vehicle was turned over to Seldomridge Towing. This case is closed.

February 19, Officer Gary Rhoden was dispatched to the Friendly Express Truck Stop in reference to shoplifting. When Officer Rhoden arrived, he met with the complainant who advised that on February 19, 2021 a black male came into the store and stole a 24-pack of Bud-light after purchasing a

cigar. Officer Rhoden's investigation led to the offender, William Sunny Johnson, being identified, located, placed under arrest and transported to the jail where he was interviewed. He was charged with shoplifting less than \$300.00. Johnson was turned over to the jailor on duty. He was served a criminal trespass warning for the Friendly Express Truck Stop, Folkston location. This case is closed.

February 19, Officer Gary Rhoden was dispatched to Double D Auto Sales in reference to a domestic incident. When he arrived, he met with the offender, Terrell Renee Webb, who advised that she was in a physical altercation with the victim at a Jeffery Street address. Officer Rhoden's investigation led to Webb's going after the victim with a tire iron, destroying property inside the residence, busting out windows with a folding chair,

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## Four charged in March Folkston arson case

Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King announced today that three male juveniles have been arrested and charged with Arson and Burglary. A warrant has been issued for a fourth suspect, Dedrick Carter, 19, but he is currently

evading arrest.

These charges stem from a March 8 fire at 14 President Road in Folkston.

"I am proud of my Fire Investigations Unit for working diligently with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the

Folkston Fire Department to identify these suspects," said Commissioner King. "If anyone has any information regarding the whereabouts of the fourth individual, we encourage them to call our State Fire Investigators Unit at 1-800-282-5804."



PICTURED ARE STAR TEACHER CURTIS HERSEY, STAR STUDENT CHELSEA THOMPSON AND GUIDANCE COUNSELOR CRYSTAL BROOKS.

## Local fights COVID-19 in Los Angeles, California

BY JOHN MCCOY

As 2021 moves forward, Americans are experiencing growing hopes of heightened immunity against the COVID-19 virus. With the expansion in availability to various vaccinations that protect against the virus, the infectious virus is seeing a decline in new cases.

Folkston native, Pfc. Cole Towne, is one of the many who are directly combatting the virus at vaccine sites. "I am third-generation military and fourth-generation first responder," said Pfc. Towne, who transferred from the National Guard into his current role as a Combat Medic Specialist for the United States Army at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Throughout the years, I decided that I wanted to be a combat medic because I wanted to help people and I thought this would be the best way I could," Pfc. Towne continued. "I lived by Fort Benning for a while and after interacting with military personnel, I decided this was the right path, especially given my family history in serving in both the military and emergency first response," he said explaining the events leading to his fight against the spread of COVID-19 across the country from his home.

As a Combat Medic Specialist in the United States Army, Pfc. Towne has been working along-

side countless others at a vaccination site at California State University Los Angeles that, as of March 22, 2021, has administered 214,896 COVID-19 vaccinations.

"From our perspective as the active duty component out here, what we do is run two vaccination operations on this site," Public Affairs Officer Capt. Dan Parker stated. "We really manage the actual vaccination operations under the direction of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and our main

role is to get the vaccines into arms," Capt. Parker continued, explaining the nature of the whole operation.

Pfc. Towne, a 2011 graduate of Charlton County High School, is the son of Judi (Darren) Music and Don (Tiffany) Towne. He is the grandson of Gerald and the late Diane Tait and William and Gail Towne. He is married to Lindsay Allday and they have one son, Jack.

He and his family are currently stationed in Colorado, where his wife and son remain as he works to fight COVID-19.



PFC. TOWNE ADMINISTERS COVID-19 VACCINES IN CALIFORNIA.

## CCHS STAR Student and STAR Teacher named

BY MARLA OGLETREE

CCHS Senior Chelsea Thompson was named the STAR Student for the Class of 2021. Thompson selected band teacher, Curtis Hersey, to be her STAR Teacher.

The STAR program stands for the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition. The program was founded in 1958 by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and has been sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) since the mid-1990's. Locally, the STAR Student and Teacher are sponsored by the Charlton County STAR Student Alumni Association. To be selected for the honor, the student has to have the highest SAT score in his or her graduating class and be a member of the Top ten percent academically. Rigorous minimum score requirements must also be met.

The STAR Teacher is selected by the student and is a teacher identified

by the student as being one who has made a significant contribution to the student's scholastic development. As a local winner, Thompson will move on to the Regional STAR competition for a chance to compete for the state STAR honor.

Thompson is the colonel for the Charlton County Band of Pride, is a section leader for the symphonic band, and a member of the Jazz band. She plays tennis, and is part of the One-Act, Musical and Literary Dramatic Interpretation. Thompson is the Vice President of the BETA Club and Student Council. She is first chair for District Band, and member of Region Band, and takes part in math competitions when applicable. Thompson is also in the top ten percent of her class, on the honor court and was voted Most Likely to Succeed by her classmates. She has been awarded many honors in the band program like Directors Award and Hard-

est Section Leader. She has also placed first year in state literary dramatic interpretation

"I've had many influential teachers who have shared in helping me develop in my studies and grades, but I am confident that no teacher has contributed more to the person I am today than Mr. Hersey. I have the utmost respect for him and I believe he deserves every ounce of that respect," Thompson stated. "He has made sacrifices in his personal life and dedicated so many hours of time to the band and to me specifically. I think he is on the same playing field as my family in that I have strived my entire high school career to make him proud," she continued. "I can't think of anyone who has pushed me as hard or has taught me that there are more things than just grades and even music. He taught me principal values in life. I love Mr. Hersey dearly and I aspire to be half the person he is in my future."

## Railfest is this Saturday

The Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce will host Railfest Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Jesse Crews, Sr. Park (at the chamber office). There will be a car show at 8:00 a.m., with judging being held at 9:00 a.m. Awards will be an-

nounced at 2:00 p.m. A photography contest will be held as well. Registration will close Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Judging will be held at 10:00 a.m. and awards will be announced at 3:00 p.m. Vendors and activities will be a part of the day as well.

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