

# The Badge



## Towns County Sheriff's Office News

### From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:



As the 2024-2025 school year begins in just a few days, I urge you to increase your awareness on the roadways, kids will be out and about on their way to school or the bus stop. Let's all make a commitment to be more patient and cautious when driving, and to never drive distracted – especially texting – behind the wheel.

As always, our SROs will be at the schools and on the road directing traffic before and after school. Please read about the Georgia's School Bus Law in this issue that went into effect July 1, 2024. Remember, the safety of our children is paramount to us all.

I would also like to take a moment and thank everyone who remained vigilant and called the office and dispatch to report information and possible sightings of the escapee. The information enabled our officers to close in on his location. And a big thank you to Steven Kirby for his quick action when his K-9 Odie alerted him to a suspicious person on their property. Mr. Kirby held the suspect at gunpoint until officers quickly arrived and took him into custody.

As always, I ask that we continue to come together as one community in support of each other. Towns County has seen many changes and growth throughout the years, and we grow stronger. Let's all work together to keep our community the greatest place to live, work, and play.

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On Wednesday July 11, 2024, Sheriff Ken Henderson and Chief Deputy Gene Moss traveled across the line to the great state of North Carolina and met with Sheriff Mark Buchanan, Chief Deputy Todd Wingate and Chief Investigator Lieutenant Joe Wood met for lunch to discuss issues that both agencies are facing.

Discussion included the ongoing drug problems and crime that each agency is facing and its effect on each's county as a whole.

Sheriff Henderson was pleased with the information that was shared and is beyond thankful of the working relationship the two agencies share.

These meetings will be ongoing to discuss the importance of combatina druds and criminal activity in our communities



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## Towns County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement

Our Mission is to modernize the Towns County Sheriff's Office and to provide quality enforcement services using proactive enforcement, community partnership and problem solving, which will create a safe, secure, and desirable living and working environment for our citizens and visitors.

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## JULY DRUG ARRESTS:



***ALL PERSONS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW.***

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## JULY DRUG ARRESTS

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On July 4, 2024, a Towns County deputy initiated a traffic stop on Highway 288 near Highway 76W. During the traffic stop, probable cause was developed to search the vehicle which resulted in an amount of Methamphetamine, which field-tested positive, being confiscated. The following individuals were arrested and charged:

James Grady Cornett, age 64, Temple GA  
Felony Possession of Methamphetamine  
Possession/Use of Drug Related Objects

Troy Atkins Cornett, age 61, Cartersville, GA  
Felony Possession of Methamphetamine  
Possession/Use of Drug Related Objects  
Failure to Drive within a Single Lane

Sheriff Ken Henderson is pleased with the commitment to these concentrated patrols, which will continue.



On Tuesday, July 30, 2024, Towns County Sheriff's Office Drug Investigators were working on drug suppression in the Crooked Creek Road area.

Investigators initiated a traffic stop. During the stop, probable cause was developed, and a search of the vehicle resulted in an amount of Methamphetamine, which field tested positive, being recovered.

During the search of the individuals an amount of Methamphetamine was confiscated from their persons.

The following individuals were arrested and charged:

Samuel Jason Murrin, age 44, Murphy NC  
• Felony Possession of Methamphetamine  
• Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects

Timothy Alan Dockery, age 48, Murphy NC  
• Felony Possession of Methamphetamine

• Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects

Sheriff Ken Henderson states that the Sheriff’s Office deputies, K-9s, and Investigators will continue our efforts to fight drugs in our community.



\*\*All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law\*\*

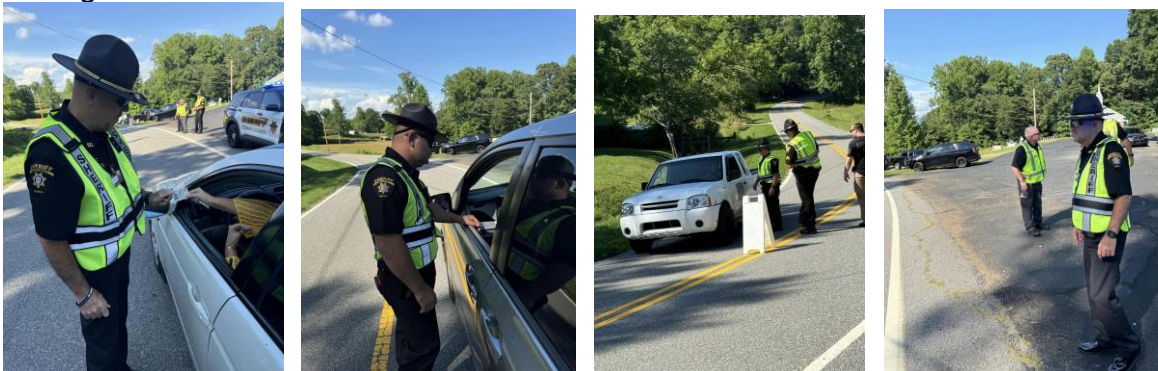
**JULY STATISTICS**

July Arrests. . . . .	36
Traffic Violations Total . . . . .	21
Personal Crimes Total. . . . .	13
*Child Endangerment. . . . .	1
*Child Molestation. . . . .	2
*Disorderly Conduct. . . . .	3
*Harassing Phone Calls. . . . .	1
*Obstruction of Law Enforcement. . . . .	1
*Sexual Battery. . . . .	2
*Simple Assault. . . . .	2
*Simple Battery. . . . .	1
Property Crimes Total. . . . .	1
*Criminal Damage to Property. . . . .	1
Substance Crimes Total. . . . .	27
*Driving Under the Influence Drugs/Alcohol. . . . .	6
*Pedestrian Under the Influence. . . . .	2
*Possess/Use Drug Related Objects. . . . .	7
*Possess Marijuana Less than 1 oz. . . . .	1
*Possess/Manufact/Distribute Methamphetamine. . . . .	8
*Possess/Manufact/Distribute/Violate GA Controlled Substance Act. . . . .	1
*Possess/Purch/Sale/Manufact/Distribute Controlled Substance. . . . .	2

**SAFETY CHECKS CONTINUE**

Wednesday evening, July 3rd, Towns County deputies, K-9s and drug investigators conducted a safety check in the Gumlog Road community.

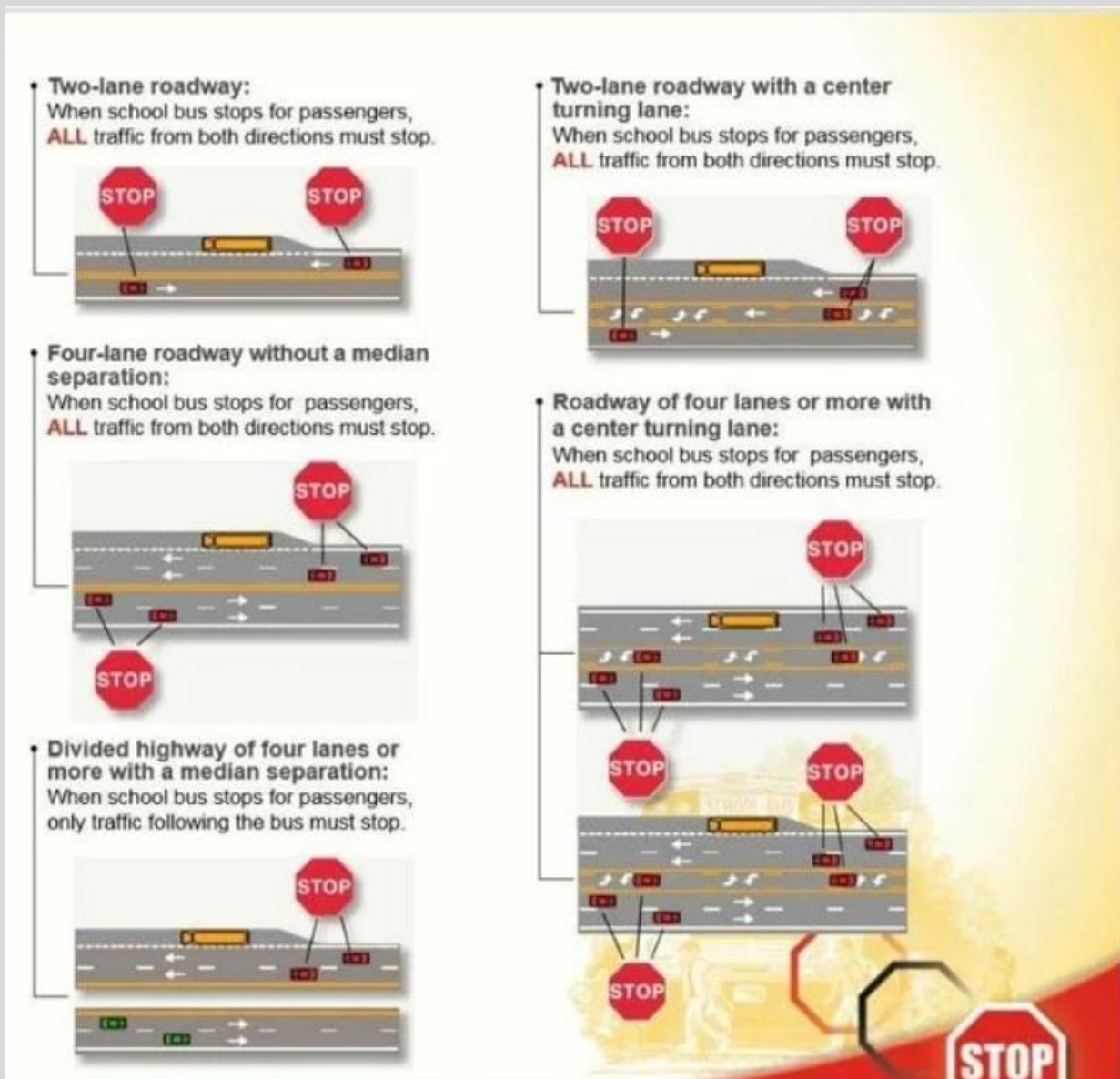
Sheriff Henderson would like to assure the citizens of Towns County and visitors that Towns County Sheriff’s Office will continue our proactive approach to ensure our roadways remain safe as the traffic increases during these summer months.



## NEW SCHOOL BUS LAW SIGNED BY GOVERNOR KEMP House Bill 409

On April 23, 2024, Governor Kemp signed a new school bus law to address a long-standing concern with school bus safety and the conduct of motorists around buses. This law went into effect July 1, 2024. This law is also known as Addy's law. It is named after 8-year-old Adalynn Pierce who was struck and killed when a driver reportedly drove past the school bus with the top arm out. Below are some key provisions:

1. The new law imposes enhanced penalties for violations. Previously, failing to stop for a school bus was considered a misdemeanor offense which carried a \$250 fine. Under Addy's Law, this penalty has been increased to a high and aggravated misdemeanor, resulting in a fine of no less than \$1,000, 12 months in jail, or both. A second or subsequent violation will allow law enforcement to notify the driver's car insurance company of the violations.
2. This new law permits the installation of stop-arm cameras on school buses. These cameras capture footage providing clear evidence for law enforcement agencies to issue citations. This means, even if there is no law enforcement on scene when you pass the bus, you could still be charged based on the camera.



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## ESCAPEE CAPTURED

On Monday afternoon July 15, 2024, around 2:30 pm, 39-year-old Bruce Douglas Partin, Jr. a trustee with the Towns County Sheriff's Office inmate work detail was working at the Towns County Transfer Station (county dump) off Hwy. 288 walked away from the work detail duty into the woods. Towns County Sheriff's Office deployed the drone and K9 tracking dog with no success.

The subject was currently being housed in the Towns County Detention Center and awaiting his court appearance.

Towns County Sheriff's Office offered a \$500.00 reward for information leading to his arrest.

Tuesday afternoon, July 16, 2024, Partin was spotted on a trail camera at the end of Ivey Mountain Road. Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, and the Department of Natural Resources utilized every resource including aerial patrol and K-9 units to assist with the search.

Thursday evening, July 18, 2024, Partin was taken into custody on Vester Road, which is also located in the Fodder Creek area. At approximately 5:15pm, a resident on Fodder Creek Road in the Gander Gap area spotted Partin in his orange jail uniform and called 911. Towns County deputies saturated the area searching for the suspect.

Approximately two hours later, Steven Kirby, a resident on Vester Road, which is also in the Fodder Creek area was inside his home when Odie, his: Labradoodle began aggressively alerting to a person outside the residence. Kirby retrieved his weapon and went outside and was immediately confronted by Partin. He ordered Partin to the ground with his weapon drawn and Partin complied. Mr. Kirby's wife, Amy, called 911 and sheriff's deputies were on the scene quickly thereafter to take Partin into custody at 7:10 pm. Mr. Kirby stated he is committed to protecting his family and property.

Friday, July 19, 2024, Sheriff Henderson was honored with the Kirby family as they came to the Towns County Sheriff's Office to accept the \$500.00 reward along with well deserved commendations for Steven and Odie.

Sheriff Henderson strongly supports everyone's 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights to keep and bear arms and would like to extend his deepest gratitude to the amazing Fodder Creek community for their vigilance and assistance, but most of all to Steven Kirby for his courage and willingness to act, stating "it is truly a pleasure to work in a community where we can count on the ongoing support of citizens like Mr. Kirby to stand behind us, and in cases like this, even physically aid us when necessary."



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# COMING SOON

## Refuse To Be A Victim.®

Hosted by Towns County Sheriff's Office

Refuse To Be A Victim® is a seminar for both men and women, and is full of crime prevention and personal safety strategies you can use to develop your own safety plan. You will learn about home, automobile, phone, technology, and personal safety—plus much more!

Complete details will be announced in the October issue of the Badge.

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If you know someone who would like to receive the monthly newsletter, please have them contact Community Relations Coordinator Jill Gittens at (706) 896-4444 or [jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com](mailto:jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com)

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