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PRESS RELEASE

BUS DRIVER AWARDED FOR LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS

BARTOW COUNTY, Ga. (August 29, 2019) – Bartow County Sheriff Clark Millsap recognizes Bartow County School Bus Driver Shannon Banks with a letter of commendation for her quick-thinking actions that saved a 15-year-old student from being hit by a negligent driver.

Seven years on the job, and Ms. Banks, a mother of four, never had to act as fast as she did on August 20. Just after 7 a.m. Ms. Banks was picking up children on Young Road in the Mission Road area, when she noticed a vehicle quickly approach her bus from behind. Ms. Banks immediately started blowing her horn, but despite that, the caution lights and active stop sign system on the bus, the driver went around the bus and nearly struck a 15-year-old girl.

Following protocol, Ms. Banks notified her supervisors, who then contacted the sheriff's office. An investigation was launched following that phone call and the suspect was apprehended after several bus drivers reported seeing the distinctive older vehicle at a residence in the area of Road #3 South.

"I truly believe that if Ms. Banks hadn't blown the bus horn, alerting the child, this story could have had a very different outcome," says Sheriff Millsap.

The Bartow County School System is proud to have Ms. Banks, a quick, sharp-witted bus driver who cares about all Bartow County children on bus #198, not just her own.

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