



# Forsyth County SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Sheriff Ron H. Freeman*

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## CRASH WITH TWO PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 22, 2019

On November 22, 2019 at 2:07 a.m., the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call to GA 400 northbound near Settingdown Road, in reference to a crash between a motor vehicle and two pedestrians.

The investigation at this point has determined that a 2001 GMC Sonoma, operated by 52-year-old Michael Stembridge of Cleveland, Ga., was traveling north in the left lane of Ga. 400 near Settingdown Road. A male and female had stopped their vehicles in the northbound emergency lane and had exited the vehicles to look for a lost item on or near the roadway. Both pedestrians were dressed in dark clothing.

Due to the dark conditions, the driver did not see the first pedestrian. Evidence indicates the driver attempted to avoid the accident but was unable to avoid striking the first pedestrian. That pedestrian was determined to have been standing in the left northbound lane of GA 400. As the vehicle veered to the left in an attempt to avoid the first pedestrian in the roadway, the second pedestrian (who was on the left edge of the roadway) was also struck.

According to Deputy First Class Michael Hobbs, Traffic Investigator with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, 44-year-old Michael Sweat of Dawsonville, Ga. (Dawson County) and 25-year-old Kayla Howard of Dahlonega, Ga. (Lumpkin County) were pronounced deceased at the scene.

Impairment or distraction are **not** preliminarily considered as factors in the crash. There are no charges pending at this time.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Traffic Specialist Unit.

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