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brief medical evaluation after having to be subdued with

Taser stun guns, and he was booked into the Union County Jail at 6:15 p.m. that Tuesday. He was transferred Friday

to a detention center in Hall County, where he is also wanted on several charges, including aggravated assault on law enforcement, according to authorities.

A member of Folds' family reached out to the North Georgia News after his arrest to express concern about their relative's portrayal in the media, saying that Folds struggles with multiple mental health issues that impact his ability to function normally.

At this time, Folds is being considered homeless by authorities. His license lists a Henry County address, and a Facebook profile appearing to belong to Folds says he is from Buford.

The Nov. 19 chase that landed Folds in jail began locally on Gainesville Highway in the vicinity of the Byron Herbert Reece Farm, when Union County Sheriff's Lt. Shawn Dyer spotted a car wanted out of multiple neighboring jurisdictions.

"I met him about three miles from the Lumpkin County line," Dyer said. "I recognized the description of the car and turned on it, and as soon as I turned on it, the guy took off."

The black 2018 Toyota Corolla's driver – later identified as Folds – began

recklessly passing cars around the curves of US 129 heading north, hitting speeds of more than 100 mph and coming dangerously close to deputies blocking off Georgia 180 as he passed.

Local law enforcement awaited Folds at the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center, hoping to end the chase there, but Folds turned up a private drive adjacent Experiment Station Road and drove into a field in an attempt to escape, with a state trooper and Dyer right behind.

"I cut off and went up in the field with him, because I knew the field would be a good place to get him stopped off the road," Dyer said. "When I got up there, he was still trying to run, and that's when our cars hit each other.

"I tried spinning him out. He got away. I got back against him again and tried spinning him out."

At that point, the trooper joined Dyer in attempting to stop the vehicle in the field, but the Corolla managed to break free from the two pursuing patrol cars.

"He finally got loose from both of us, went across the field, jumped the driveway, went down about a 10-foot bank, through a little flat spot, up about a 12-foot bank and back out into the road," Dyer said.

From there, units with the Sheriff's Office, Blairsville Police Department and Georgia State Patrol converged on the vehicle, which, upon arriving downtown, made a left from Cleveland Street to go the wrong way around the square before exiting into the Seasons Inn Plaza.

A parade of patrol cars followed the Corolla into the plaza, and the pursuit came to an end behind the Seasons Inn Motel as the trooper used his car to block Folds in.

The chase reportedly originated in Hall County on Monday and picked back up that Tuesday in White County, though law enforcement left off pursuit on Nov. 19 until Dyer spotted the vehicle in Union County.

According to GSP, the car being driven by Folds belonged to Hertz Rental, and the vehicle had been spray-painted black in an apparent attempt to alter its appearance.

Fortunately, no one was hurt as a result of the chase in Union County, though Dyer's



Union County Sheriff's Lt. Shawn Dyer and Blairsville Police Officer Seth Dyer inspect the stolen black 2018 Toyota Corolla that led authorities on a 9-mile chase last week.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

car and the Georgia State Patrol car were damaged in the pursuit.

Several people have reported being nearly struck in their vehicles by Folds as he led deputies on the high-speed chase, and the denizens of Seasons Inn Plaza were extremely grateful for the law enforcement presence that evening.

Colleen Urbaniuk owns Seasons Inn Motel, and she arrived on the scene shortly after Folds was taken into custody.

Urbaniuk said she was amazed that authorities were able to organize so quickly and efficiently, adding that people should definitely feel safe living here with this caliber of law enforcement.

Thanks to video surveillance equipment from the property, she was able to count seven patrol cars from three different law enforcement agencies coordinating to surround and arrest Folds before he could continue to flee or escape on foot into the plaza.

Seasons Inn Office Clerk Linda Burkhardt was working the front office when Folds and law enforcement entered the plaza, and she immediately locked the door and notified

guests of the situation, as well as Papa's Pizza across the way.

Down at Selah Hair Salon, Walela Hicks and a coworker were conditioning their clients' hair when Hicks saw a black object zoom past the storefront.

"It happened so fast I didn't really have time to be scared," Hicks said. "I don't know how he made that turn, because if he was in any taller of a vehicle making a turn like that, it looked like he would have rolled into the building."

After realizing it was a car being followed by several police vehicles, she wrapped her client's hair and they went outside to see what was going on.

"The cops were right after him," Hicks said. "By the time I got to the end of the sidewalk, they had already got him, the car – it looked like they had everything under control. I'm very impressed."

Hicks and the rest of the folks occupying the Seasons Inn Plaza that evening said they were glad that nobody got hurt or worse as Folds raced through the parking area, which is regularly frequented by customers and others walking through the plaza.