

Sheriff's Office arrests seven more people in pursuit of drug suspects

News Special
Towns County Herald
 Deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office have continued to stay busy in recent weeks, arresting seven more individuals as they continue to uphold their pledge to seek out suspects involved in illegal drug activity within the county.

On Sunday, July 28, a Towns County deputy assisted a Hiwassee police officer in serving an arrest warrant in the parking lot of a local business.

Upon further investigation, Blake Ledford, 34, of Hayesville, North Carolina, was arrested for possession of a Schedule II drug and for having prescription pills not kept in the original container.

On Wednesday, July 31, Towns County deputies and Georgia Department of Community Supervision officers searched a residence off Gumlog Road in the Young Harris area of the county and arrested four subjects.

Deputies had an active arrest warrant for Peggy Mulkey, and the other three suspects arrested at the time obstructed and hindered law enforcement officers in their

search for Mulkey, who was found hiding in a closet of the residence.

The following suspects were taken into custody without incident:

Peggy Mulkey, 40, of Young Harris, for possession of methamphetamine, four counts possession of dangerous drugs, possession of drug-related objects and possession of a firearm by a felon;

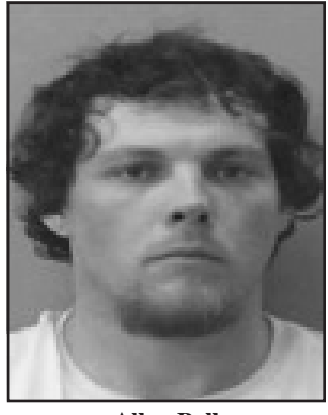
Christina Canterbury, 45, of Young Harris, for obstruction of a law enforcement officer and possession of drug-related objects;

Amanda Jo Wade, 40, of Young Harris, for obstruction of a law enforcement officer;

Allen Bell, 30, of Young Harris, for obstruction of a law enforcement officer.

On Thursday, Aug. 1, a deputy made a traffic stop along US 76 at Jack Dayton Circle on a white Chevrolet passenger car.

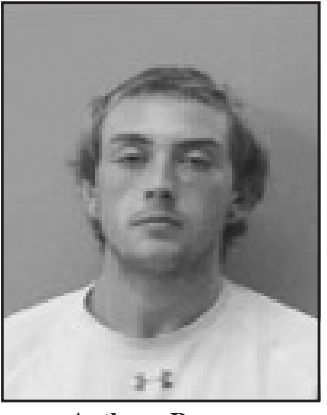
Upon further investigation into the traffic stop, Anthony Reagan, 24, believed to be from the area of Hayesville, North Carolina, was arrested and charged with possession of ecstasy, driving without a driver's license



Allen Bell



Amanda Jo Wade



Anthony Reagan



Blake Ledford

and a headlight requirement violation.

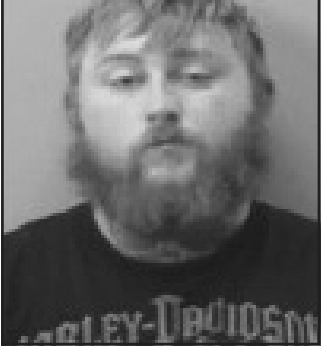
On Friday, Aug. 2, a Towns County deputy initiated a traffic stop along US 76 near Ridgecrest Circle on a Ford Expedition.

Resulting from the traffic stop and upon further investigation, Jacob Crawford, 26, of Simpsonville, South Carolina, was arrested without incident and charged with possession of marijuana and illegal window tint.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office will continue its strong effort to seek out drug suspects within the county, and additional arrests will be



Christina Canterbury



Jacob Crawford



Peggy Mulkey

forthcoming.

The above cases will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial

Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution. All suspects are presumed innocent

until proven guilty in a court of law.

Young Harris man wanted for burglary in Blairsville arrested in Fannin

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

BLAIRSVILLE – William "Rainbow" Trannies Jones, 61, of Young Harris, was taken into custody in Fannin County on Sunday, Aug. 4, after being on the run from law enforcement for a week.

As of press time Monday, Jones was being held without bond at the Union County Jail.

Jones became a fugitive from justice shortly after a couple discovered that their home had been burglarized

recently, as right away, they suspected it was the hired help, said Lt. Daren Osborn of the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The folks were in the process of moving out of state and had paid Jones to clean up around the Pleasant Grove Road property, Osborn said.

"They said he just showed up one day and said, 'Hey, can I have some of this scrap out here?' He does a lot of scrap metal," Osborn said.

The couple left town for a brief time prior to finally moving out, which is when Jones allegedly decided to make

his move, Osborn said, with the burglary being discovered on Saturday, July 27.

"He knew they were going to be gone for a few days, and he basically came back and entered the house through the back window and took several items from inside the house," Osborn said.

The very next day, on Sunday, July 28, a Union County deputy spotted a vehicle on Murphy Highway matching the description of Jones' truck, Osborn said.

It was the same deputy who'd taken the report at the burgled residence the day

before, and he also noticed several items in the back of the truck that seemed to correspond with items allegedly stolen from the property, Osborn said.

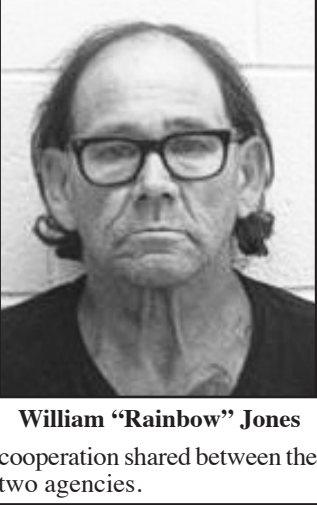
By the time the deputy had turned around to pursue the truck, Jones had pulled into a residence off Ivy Log Road, Osborn said.

The deputy ran the tag and found that Jones was wanted on a parole violation, though the deputy was unable to apprehend Jones because he had gotten out of his vehicle and disappeared into the woods nearby, Osborn said.

"Slow communication with computers is basically what happened," Osborn said. "He didn't know it was him, they just fit the description of the pickup and the person, and by the time (the Georgia Crime Information Center) got all the information relayed back to the deputy, he had fled."

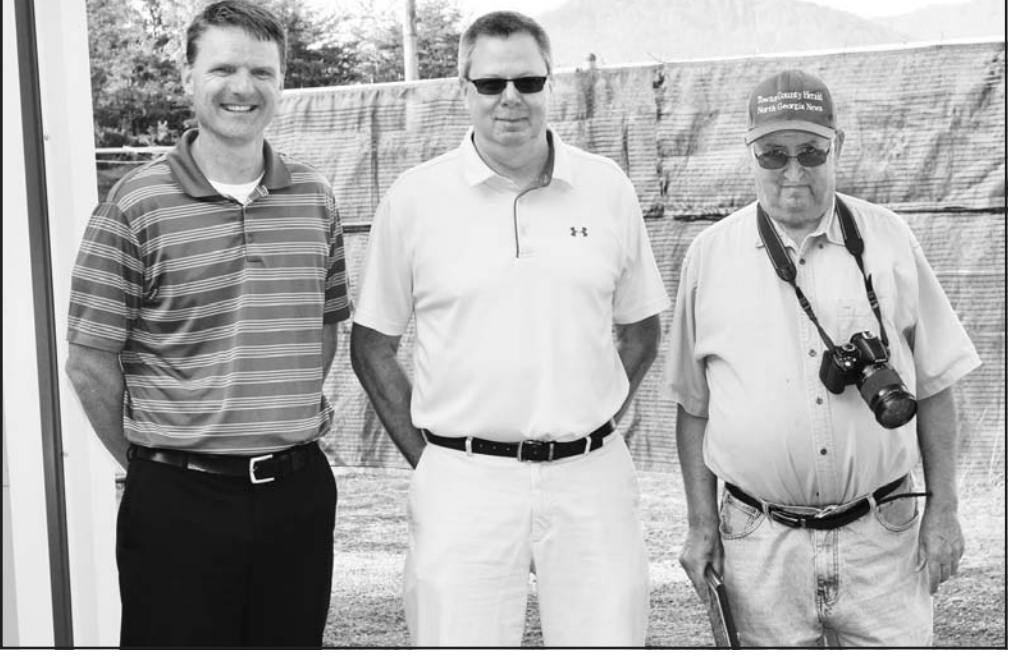
Added Osborn, "We've got his truck impounded, and it did have stolen goods in it from that particular residence."

Osborn said the Union County Sheriff's Office would like to thank its law enforcement counterparts in Fannin County for the continued excellent



William "Rainbow" Jones

Nicholson Field...from Page 1A



Darren Berrong and Cliff Bradshaw with Lowell Nicholson at the Herald photographer's namesake field last week.

surprised Nicholson with a special meet-up showcasing the field's new sign.

Reading "Welcome to Lowell Nicholson Field, Home of Lady Indians Softball," the large sign resides on the side of the Lady Indians' new locker room and is visible even from the parking lot below.

Superintendent Berrong said he felt a new sign for Lowell Nicholson Field "was long overdue."

"Lowell is truly Towns County's No. 1 fan, and it's an honor for all of us to finally have a sign welcoming everyone to Lowell Nicholson Field," Berrong said.

Head Softball Coach Clay Livingston said he was honored to coach on the field that was named after Nicholson, adding that he appreciates what the dedicated photographer does for the kids.

Just before the softball team lined up to take a group photo with Nicholson last week, several of the Lady Indians shook his hand and thanked him for all his years promoting Towns County's youth.

"He is always so nice to us, and he really works hard at taking pictures," said junior pitcher Kennedy Henson. "He never misses a game and really supports all the athletics at



A Lady Indian fielding a throw during team practice on July 31.

Towns County."

Nicholson has taken photos for the Towns County Herald for decades and has had the opportunity to watch several generations of student-athletes play ball.

"I can remember when he was taking pictures for the newspaper when I was playing ball in the '80s," said Lady Indian alum Sara Parton. "He is always great with the kids, and he is really great at what

he does.

"He has taken several great pictures of my son (Will Travis) over the last four years that have been in the newspaper."

Also new at Lowell Nicholson Field is the backstop behind home plate, a concrete slab beneath the bleachers, a pitching bullpen and batting cages, plus expanded safety netting to protect spectators from foul balls.

Federal Trial...from Page 1A

will be admitted, but Story did issue a verbal order on March 27 to seal the summary of the evidence, which had been included as an exhibit in the defendants' joint motion to bar the introduction of the evidence.

As there are other motions to be decided in the case, the judge said in March that the court would schedule another pretrial conference, which he set in May for Aug. 8.

In addition to the July 29 renewed motion to bar evidence, Story must also decide on Gowder's March 26 request to have 47 of the 150 charges

against him dismissed due to improper venue.

His attorneys argue in the motion that the charges in question entail activity alleged to have occurred outside the Northern District of Georgia's jurisdiction, presumably in either Tennessee, North Carolina or elsewhere.

Furthermore, the judge has yet to decide on Gowder's March 22 request for a nonjury trial, which would run simultaneously with Heaton's jury trial if granted and require Story to decide Gowder's innocence or guilt.

There's also the May 2018 motion to sever the defendants

in the case that has yet to be decided, which, if granted, would result in separate trials for the defendants, though Gowder's attorney has indicated he's no longer pursuing severance.

Currently, Gowder and Heaton are set to be tried as co-defendants by a jury of their peers beginning on Oct. 8, notwithstanding the granting of an above-mentioned motion and/or another resetting of the trial date.

They are presumed innocent of the charges, "and it will be the government's burden to prove each defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial," according to the U.S. District Attorney's Office in Atlanta.

Smith...from Page 1A

direction for the police chiefs of this state.

"Our summer training conference leads the country in the caliber of instructors and material delivered to the attendees. Each one of us takes away something new and useful to complement our management styles as we return to our respective departments.

"The networking and knowledge of the approximately 550 attendees

in those classrooms is unprecedented. The GACP continues to strive to provide the best training possible to the members of the association and be the standard for other chiefs' associations across the country."

This year's conference covered a variety of training topics, including:

Advancing Officer Health & Wellness; Leadership Strategies for the 21st Century Police Administrator; Las

Vegas Route 91 Harvest Festival Oct. 1 Debrief; DDS Card Security for Law Enforcement; Next Generation of Identification Overview;

The Impact of Legalized Marijuana and Law Enforcement Leadership in Traffic Safety; and Reset the Clock: Replace Liability With Credibility – Practical Employee Relations for Leaders in Law Enforcement.

City Council...from Page 1A

eye on that one for a while," Ordiales said.

The city still has six outstanding loans: three USDA loans amounting to \$2.3 million and three GEFA loans totaling \$1,173,847.

After taking care of the last GEFA loan, the city has paid off \$1,132,323 in loans, bringing the city's total debt down to about \$3.5 million, Ordiales said.

In new business, Ordiales announced that Hiwassee Ethics Board Member Leslie McPeak recently relocated to Panama from Hiwassee, forcing her to step away from the Ethics Board.

"As you know, Leslie was my choice for the Ethics Board assignment, so I had to find a replacement," Ordiales said. "And it is my honor to have Susan Phillips represent us on the Board of Ethics with Susan Scott and LaJean Turner."

After the announcement, Phillips took an oath, making her an official member of the

Ethics Board.

Also during the meeting, Police Chief Paul Smith reported about a recent traffic stop conducted by Officer Brandon Barrett.

On Sunday, July 28, Barrett was patrolling when he witnessed a driver talking with his cellphone to his ear, which is now against the law.

After stopping the vehicle, Chief Smith said Barrett smelled a hint of marijuana, which lead to probable cause to search the vehicle.

During Barrett's search, he found an ounce of marijuana and more three ounces of meth, along with drug-related objects.

"Normally, we only find small amounts of meth, and the amount Barrett found had a street value of more than \$6,000," Smith said.

After former Hiwassee Police Officer John Carter stepped down recently, Smith said, they hired Aaron Deyton, who served previously as an investigator with the Towns



Mayor Liz Ordiales County Sheriff's Office. "He left there for a night shift job in the city," Smith said. "He wanted to get back on patrol and do some real police work again. We're happy to have him on board. He brings many years of experience and lots of great training."

School Tour...from Page 1A

building onto the great things we have done in the past."

Added Perren, "I'm looking forward to working with these students, teachers and the community. I was the principal here before for nine years, and I'm just really excited to do this again. I'm excited about all the great things we've done to the buildings."

Former High School Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs will be the middle school principal in the new school year, while Erica Chastain, who served as middle school principal in recent years, will be the new Facilities Director and Federal Programs Director.

Chastain will also lead the Lady Indians middle school basketball team as head coach.

The schools welcomed five new teachers during the Aug. 1 New Teacher Orientation: Middle School Physical Education Teacher

Evans Woodard; High School PE Teacher and Head Football Coach Jason Roquemore; Elementary Special Education Teacher Laura Banister; Fourth-Grade Elementary Teacher Christy Giles; and Middle School Math Teacher Christopher Drury.

The schools will hold

their regular open house for students and parents to visit classrooms and meet the teachers on Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 5 p.m.

"A lot of important information is shared during the open house," said Superintendent Berrong. "We hope to see all of our students and families at open house."

Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, Superintendent Berrong, Chamber President Candace Lee and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby checking out the updated middle/high school media center last week.

Photo by Chad Stack