

Community/Opinion

Union County Arrest Report

The following is the arrest report for the Union County Jail. This report is from the open records for the period of February 26 through March 4, 2007. The following persons were arrested and charged with offenses, but have not been found guilty.

2/26/07
Jeremy Russell Marlow, 28, of Blairsville, arrested for bench warrant; child support; probation violation;
Kevin William Rogers, 26, of Blairsville, arrested for battery (two counts); criminal trespass;
Chris Eugene Winters, 37, of Rome, Ga., arrested for no proof of insurance; driving

with license suspended or revoked; driving on suspended registration, first offense;

Jamie Ann Wright, 22, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

Darryl Franklin Hall, 25, of Young Harris, Ga., serving time;

Cody Paul Norton, 18, of Blairsville, arrested for disorderly conduct;

2/27/07
Jesse Ivan Cone, 20, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

William Dean Chitwood, 47, of Blairsville, arrested for first degree forgery;

2/28/07

Felix Vargas, 53, of Warne, N.C., arrested for driving while unlicensed;

John William Snow, 45, of Blairsville, serving time;

3/1/07

Fred Jones, 29, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

3/2/07

Lillian Farr, 49, of Young Harris, serving time;

Louie Catlin Millsaps, 22, of Blairsville, arrested for probation (two counts); bench warrant;

James Michael Rich, 25, of Blairsville, serving time;

John Jonah Harrison, 27, of Blairsville, serving time;

Tracy Ann Shope, 45, of

Blairsville, serving time;
George Thomas Roberts, 43, of Cleveland, Ga., serving time;

3/3/07

Sequoyah the Aquarian, 24, of Hayesville, N.C., arrested for open container; failure to maintain lane; D.U.I., first offense; safety restraint;

Alan Jay Hendricks, 48, of Murphy, arrested for possession of cocaine with intent; driving with license suspended or revoked; operation of vehicle without correct license tag; D.U.I., drugs and alcohol; failure to maintain lane; failure to stop for stop sign.

LETTERS

A first in Georgia politics

To the Editor:

The non-partisan special election to pick a successor to recently deceased Charlie Norwood, US Representative for Georgia's 10th District, is scheduled for June 19th. Since it is a special non-partisan election, Democrats and Republicans will not hold primary elections to determine which single Republican and which single Democrat will appear on the ballot; instead, there are likely to be several Republicans and several Democrats on the ballot. It's too early to tell who all will be on the ballot, but the choices will probably include several Republicans (possibly including Jim Whitehead, Ralph T. Hudgens, Paul Broun, Bob Young, and Willie Green); several Democrats (possibly including Terry Holley, Tom Chasteen, Alan Powell, and David Bell); and at least one Libertarian: James "Jim" Sendelbach. Yes, you read that right, for the first time in history there will probably be a Libertarian candidate for US Representative on a Georgia ballot! And if you're wondering why there has never been a Libertarian candidate for US Representative on a GA ballot before, it is because Georgia's elected Republicans and Democrats have imposed a virtually impossible requirement on Libertarians (and other interested parties) to secure, roughly, 30 THOUSAND certified signatures of registered voters just to get on the ballot!

In the coming weeks you will probably hear a lot about the Republican and Democrat candidates, and not much about the Libertarian candidate, so allow me to introduce him. Dr. Jim Sendelbach holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, a master's degree in theology, a doctorate degree in counseling psychology, and is a licensed professional counselor and certified forensic addictions examiner. He is presently co-owner & principal therapist at Anchor Point Neurofeedback and Counseling Center in Conyers. He is a Vietnam era veteran (US Army), and has been married for 23 years to Susan Sendelbach who was born in Americus, GA, and earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Emory University. He is a member of the International Society for Neurotherapy and Research, a member of St. Pius Church, a former member of Christ Our Hope Church in Lithonia, a member of the Pilot Club of Conyers, and the Conyers-Rockdale Chamber of Commerce, and he also serves as a mentor in the Rockdale County Juvenile Court Mentoring program. The behemoth, insatiable, intrusive, out of control federal government we are living with today was created by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents; but the Libertarians are running against the tide because they stand for less government growth, less spending, less taxes, less regulation, and more individual liberty. For this, I respectfully request that 10th district residents seriously consider voting for Jim Sendelbach on June 19.

Cordially,
Chuck Esposito
Suches, Ga.

To the Editor:

Global warming is one of the most important challenges facing us today. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released an extensive review of the existing climate science. This report states that human production of heat-trapping emissions is the primary cause and that continued warming will result in more violent storms, rising sea levels and greater precipitation. Congress is finally beginning to address the issue but we as individuals don't need to wait for mandates. We can all begin to reduce our personal impact on the environment by doing some of the following: turning off the tap while brushing teeth, taking showers rather than baths, using warm or cold water in the washing machine, cleaning the lint filter in the dryer each time it is used, running the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads, using the microwave to heat small portions, and of course recycling as much as possible. This is just a start, but we can all help make a difference.

Michelle Maloney
Blairsville, Ga.

To the Editor:

In the March 7 publication of the North Georgia News by the county Commissioner (in his weekly article), the commissioner stated that the county tax increase was less than 5 percent and the school tax was 30 percent.

Fact 1: As one who went to both meetings and saw the budget, the school budget increase was 52 percent and the county portion was a little less than 20 percent. One has to wonder why elected officials continue to insist upon using the lower figures, unless it is to fool the public.

Fact 2: Elected officials keep mentioning the fact the State keeps cutting school funds received from the state. The School Board included in its budget over \$300,000 from both school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 that was cut from the State funding. In other words the Local school system not only got back the State cuts from the local tax increase but also got nearly 4 million extra in the increase. If elected officials keep insisting that the tax increase was not too much or that the increase is only keeping up with progress, let them publish the 2005 and 2006 tax digest and the budgets and let voters see for themselves how their money is being spent and used.

Mike Sims

Legislative Report

Continued from page 1A

Children Health Insurance Program funds, which are reimbursed at 73 percent, Georgia could be reimbursed for the difference.

HB 620 would also provide that all children ages 1-18 with family incomes below 150 percent of the federal poverty level would remain in Medicaid. This approach also allows the children of state employees with family incomes below 150 percent of poverty to enroll in PeachCare.

Under legislation approved unanimously by House members, Georgians will be able to take advantage of two different sales tax holidays again this year.

If, as expected, HB 128 is approved by the Senate and

signed into law, the first tax-free period will be Aug. 2-5, during back-to-school shopping. During that weekend, consumers would not have to pay local or state sales taxes on school supplies under \$20, computer equipment \$1,500 or less and clothing items under \$100. With the state sales tax at 4 cents on a dollar and 1 to 3 cents locally, a shopper could see savings of \$75 to \$135 on a \$1,500 computer.

Another holiday established in the bill applies to energy efficient products, with the government's energy efficient star sticker that cost \$1,500 or less. They also have to be purchased for noncommercial home or personal use. This holiday period would be Oct. 4-7.

Georgia's sales tax holidays have become popular shopping periods, helping boost sales for retailers throughout the state.

Legislation has been introduced that would move up the date of Georgia's presidential preference primary from March 4 to Feb. 5, 2008, behind only the Iowa caucuses, and the New Hampshire, Florida and South Carolina primaries. HB 487 also changes the provisions for winning Georgia's primaries and elections from a simple majority to a 45 percent-plus plurality. Currently, candidates need 50 percent to win outright in primaries and general elections.

The bill's sponsors suggest that moving the date of

Georgia's presidential preference primary ensures that Georgia will play a prominent role in choosing the nation's next president. But there is concern about the plurality provision, as some would argue that any Georgia political leader who wins with less than a simple majority of votes lack any sort of mandate for political leadership, and therefore does not represent the wishes of a majority of citizens.

Rep. Charles Jenkins (D-Blairsville) represents the 8th District (Rabun, Towns, Union and White counties) in the Georgia House of Representatives. Contact him at 411 Coverdell Office Building, Atlanta, GA 30334; by phone at 404-656-0126 or by e-mail at charles.jenkins@house.ga.gov.

NARFE supports tax reform

Since 2001 current federal employees have been able to deduct the cost of their health insurance premiums from their income tax however annuitants were not included in this legislation. Federal Retiree Health Care Tax Relief (H.R.1110) would amend the tax code to allow Federal civilian and military retirees, as well as active military employees, to pay their health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis as current civilian employees can already do.

Active Federal employees should be especially supportive of this legislation. Contact your Representative Nathan Deal and ask him to cosponsor and support this House Resolution (H.R. 1110).

The Brasstown Bald chapter of NARFE will meet at noon on Tuesday March 13th at Cobbs Mill Restaurant in Blairsville. All current or retired federal employees, their spouses or survivors, are welcome at NARFE meeting.

For more information, contact George at 706 745-7286 or Larry 706 745-4092 larjon@brmeme.net

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Publisher: Rainer Arnold Editor: Jared Putnam

Production: April Bittel

Sentinel Writer: Kathleen McKeivitt

Advertising: Kathleen McKeivitt Circulation Manager: Debbie Walker

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E-mail us at: unionnews@windstream.net. Web page: unionsentinel.com