

Community

Union County Arrest Report

The following is the arrest report for the Union County Jail. This report is from the open records for the the period of March 12 through March 17, 2007. The following persons were arrested and charged with offenses, but have not been found guilty.

3/12/07

Veronica Lynn Byrd, 41, of Blairsville, arrested for public intoxication (city);

3/13/07

Gary Lee Hogsed, 56, of Blairsville, arrested for attempt or conspiracy to commit offense related to controlled substance or marijuana; manufacturing marijuana; possession of ephedrine; probation violation; possession of firearm by convicted felon;

Clifford Bradley Gibson, 33, of Blairsville, arrested for attempt or conspiracy or commit offense related to controlled substance or marijuana; possession of meth with intent; VGCSA posses-

sion; possession of firearm by convicted felon;

Michelle Lynn Spiva, 33, of Hayesville, N.C., bench warrant;

Felicia Fay Morris, 20, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation; possession of marijuana with intent; possession of marijuana, less than one ounce;

Jesse Oliver Maier, 26, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

Gregg Allen Fisher, 45, of Blairsville, hold for court; Mikael Raed-Suhayle Kaser, 21, of Blairsville, arrested for possession of marijuana, less than one ounce; possession of marijuana with intent; manufacture, distribute, dispense, sell controlled substance;

3/14/07

Monica Ann Godsey, 39, of Blairsville, arrested for possession with intent; unlawful to purchase, possess, or have control of any controlled substance (two counts); driv-

ing without a valid commercial drivers' license;

Charles Evan Bryant, 35, of Blairsville, serving time;

Mary Sue Nichols, 44, of Murphy, N.C., serving time;

Arturo Gonzalez, 30, of Sugar Hill, Ga., arrested for window glazing violation; driving while unlicensed;

Robert Jimmie Cruse, 53, of Young Harris, Ga., arrested for stalking; probation violation;

Keith Murray Blaisdell, 50, of Morganton, Ga., arrested for driving with license suspended or revoked; child support (two counts);

3/15/07

Dale Michael Rozell, 28, of Blairsville, arrested for expired tag; driving with license suspended or revoked; tire requirements;

Danny John Brewer, 52, of Blairsville, arrested for operation of vehicle without correct license tag; D.U.I. drugs; driving while unlicensed; probation violation;

Betty Ann Cruse, 42, of Morganton, Ga., arrested for obstruction of officer;

Justin William Holloway, 24, of Blairsville, arrested for disorderly conduct;

Dallan Royce Wimberly, 18, of Blairsville, arrested for disorderly conduct; creating hazardous conditions or offensive conditions

3/16/07

Jodi Ann Lanigan, 16, of Blairsville, arrested for theft of services;

Lillian Chloe Farr, 49, of Blairsville, serving time; George Thomas Roberts, 43, of Cleveland, Ga., serving time;

3/17/07

Jerry Lee Smithie, 20, of Blairsville, serving time; Trevor Jennings Dyer, 21, of Blairsville, arrested for battery; cruelty to children;

Jack Lane Marlow, 37, of Blue Ridge, Ga., arrested for hit and run/leaving the scene of an accident; no proof of insurance; driving with suspended or revoked.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Regarding the recent Justice Department (JD) findings that the FBI was abusing its authority under the Patriot Act, and had illegally obtained private records during some investigations: did anyone really believe that such abuses would not happen? For me, I'm about as shocked as Inspector Renault was in the 1942 film "Casablanca," when he learned that there was gambling going on at Rick's Café. Abuses reported in the JD findings include illegally circumventing the National Security Letter (NSL) provision of the Patriot Act, and in some cases, issuing NSLs after the fact to "cover" illegitimate record demands for sensitive personal information such as telephone records and e-mail. Also according to the JD report, FBI agents contracted with phone companies to improperly obtain customer records, saying that subpoenas would later be issued in connection with an underlying investigation. But in a random examination of such "exigent letters," not one subpoena was sent, and in many cases the requests were not tied to any pending FBI investigations, which was a clear violation of the law. The FBI director said no one has suffered harm from the "errors" made. Ha! Next time you're caught speeding, try telling the trooper that it's OK because no one "suffered harm" from your actions. Democrat Senator Patrick Leahy said, "You cannot have people act as free agents on something where they are going to be delving into your privacy ... We all want to stop terrorists. We all want to stop criminals. But the FBI work for us, the American people, not the other way around." And, Republican Senator Arlen Specter thinks the Patriot Act may have to be changed and the FBI's power curtailed because "they appear not to be able to know how to use it." Amen! Sounds like bipartisanship to me. Let's get on with it!

Cordially,
Chuck Esposito,
Suches, GA

Legislative Report

Continued from page 1A

cessful program that has helped provide basic coverage for thousands of children of Georgia's working families who participate in the program.

The House Ways & Means Committee has favorably reported HB 195, which would eliminate state income taxes on retirement earnings such as stocks, pensions and 401(k)s. Under the bill, seniors who continue to work would pay state income taxes on those earnings. A law passed in

2003 already will exempt the first \$35,000 in retirement income per person when it is fully phased in next year. The new proposal, which now faces a vote on the House floor, would exempt retirement income above that level.

The Georgia Budget & Policy Institute reported on a study estimating that only seniors in the top 10 percent of income would benefit from HB 195. The study said 96 percent of the tax cut would go to seniors with

annual incomes of \$100,000 or more.

HB 283, which would require all Open Records requests to be submitted in written form, either in person, e-mail, or fax, was favorably reported, in a narrow 5-4 vote, by the House Civil Judiciary Committee.

Proponents of the bill state it would protect government officials from prosecution from inadvertently failing to comply with the law. Opponents indicate it

will deter average people from seeking public records and possibly lead to more lawsuits.

HB 590, which would reduce fines imposed on motorists caught crossing the red light by cameras, was narrowly defeated in the House Transportation Committee by a 12-11 vote. Supporters of the bill contend local governments are using red light cameras as an additional revenue stream. Opponents of the bill claim such cameras assist with reducing accidents and maintaining public safety.

Within the same committee, HB 77 would accomplish the same goal as HB 590 and provide the State a much needed benefit. HB 77 would allow local governments to continue fining motorists at \$70, but the city or county would only keep 25 percent of the revenue. The remaining 75 percent would go to a proposed state fund to improve trauma care.

During the last few weeks it has been my honor to host an increasing number of visiting groups, mainly from Union and Towns Counties. A majority of the groups are students from local schools and senior citizens. In addition to touring the Capitol, I have been able to provide free tickets to the Cyclorama, Atlanta Zoo and the Coca-Cola Museum.

I welcome our citizens from Rabun, White, Towns and Union Counties to visit these areas, and especially to take advantage of a guided tour of the Georgia Capitol. You are invited to call, write or e-mail my office to make arrangements for scheduled visits.

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.

To the Editor:

Just want to say thanks to the surprising amount of people who have called, sent a note or stopped me on the street to ask when I'll start my "Travels with Louise" again.

I'd truly like to share more trips with you but time slips by quickly and I never have any extra. I have written a couple on Spain for ITN as I had done previously but only once a month. I have ended those also.

I am preparing to go to Wales and the rest of the U.K. and hope I remember how to drive on the left. After seven trips to Jamaica. I had no problems but I'm rusty. See y'all later.

Louise Hughes

To the Editor:

The citizens of Union County have an historic opportunity to stand up for what they believe. At 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 24 at the House of Prayer, Union County's Republican Party holds its convention, where any Union County voter can take part in choosing the officers and direction of the party for the next two years. As a member of the local party for more than 5 years, believe me: Nothing could be more important for our community.

The time has come for our local Republican Party to more accurately and effectively represent the needs and interests of this community. For too long, our local party has engaged in frequently ineffective and sometimes ill-advised misadventures, ignoring the interests and hopes of the many, more interested in maintaining petty squabbles than in finding genuine solutions to the problems and concerns of the citizens of Union County. The time has come, for the sake of our community and our future, to lay aside the grudges of old, the feelings of mistrust, and above all, ego.

Achieving economic prosperity while protecting and preserving our natural beauty and stewarding the heritage of these mountains for future generations is going to take conscious and concentrated effort by 'we the people.'

We must turn our hearts, minds, and hands to the task of reaching out and working together to achieve the common good. It is time to end the failed policies of the past that have caused progress to be halted by an unwillingness to negotiate. Workable compromise that produces results is better than the relentless pursuit of currently unachievable goals.

This does not mean that we will yield for one moment our dedication to lowering taxes, smaller and more accountable government, defending individual liberties, protecting our natural resources, and upholding traditional family values. Rest assured, we will stand in strong but honorable opposition to those who seek to undermine these principles. However, our first commitment must be to put forward a vision and plan for the betterment of Union County.

We can and will achieve this first by discussion, then by debate and negotiation, and finally, through the power of the ballot box. Your presence at the county convention can make this a shared reality. Please join me Saturday, March 24th in taking a stand for our community and for a better way forward for our party. Contact (706) 781-5290 for more info.

Respectfully Yours,
Justin Lewis Wight



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