

Drug Arrests...from Page 1A

searched a residence located on Bald Mountain Cove in Hiwassee.

Investigators and deputies arrested Jeremy Jemlich, 33, of Hiwassee, charging him with possession of drug-related objects and giving a false name to a law enforcement officer, and he was also arrested on an active parole warrant.

On Saturday, Jan. 11, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on a Dodge Ram pickup on State Route 75 North in Hiwassee.

Upon further investigation, Harvey Ellis May, 36, of Hayesville, North Carolina, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine.

On Monday, Jan. 13, Towns County Sheriff's Office investigators and deputies executed a search warrant at a residence located on Campbell Terrace in Young Harris.

Upon completion of the search and further investigation, the following suspects were arrested:

Joshua Leon Brinson, 40, of Young Harris, on charges of trafficking in methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Elizabeth Ann Brinson, 62, of Young Harris, on charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and possession of drug-related objects.

Autumn Dawn Martin, 24, of Hayesville, North Carolina, on charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of a Schedule I drug (Xanax).

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on State Route 66 in Young Harris on a Ford Explorer.

Upon further investigation, the driver, Jack Hadley, 47, of Warne, North Carolina, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug-related objects, driving without a license, and violation of brake light requirement.

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, Towns County deputies assisted a Georgia State Patrol trooper with a traffic stop on US 76 in Young Harris involving a Dodge Caravan.

Upon further

investigation, deputies arrested Tiffany Snow, 27, of Pendergrass, and charged her with possession of marijuana.

Nina Shelton, 27, of Braselton, was also arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of THC oil.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on US 76 in Young Harris on a Nissan Altima.

Upon further investigation, Jack Hadley, 47, of Warne, North Carolina, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug-related objects.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on State Route 288 in Hiwassee on a Ford F-150 pickup. A Georgia State Patrol trooper assisted with the traffic stop.

Upon further investigation, Chad Patterson, 42, of Hayesville, North Carolina, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug-related objects.

On Monday, Jan. 27, Towns County investigators and deputies executed a search warrant at a residence located on Martin Circle in Young Harris.

Upon completion of the search warrant, Donald Richard Martin, 45, of Young Harris, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine.

He was also arrested on two warrants for the sale of methamphetamine and one warrant for the sale of a Schedule I drug (Ecstasy). These warrants were in reference to a recent undercover investigation.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, Towns County Sheriff's Office investigators and deputies searched a residence located in Ashland Cove.

Upon completion of the search, James Bailey, 37, of Young Harris was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects. Bailey was also arrested on a warrant out of Florida for the sale and delivery of methamphetamine.

On Sunday, Feb. 9, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on US 76 in Young

Harris on a Buick Verano. Upon further investigation, the following suspects were arrested:

Jordan Shane Bragg, 19, of Douglasville, on charges of possession of marijuana and speeding.

Zion Jesse Moore, 19, of Dunwoody, on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Joshua Amir Lalik Smith, 19, of Lawrenceville, on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Harold Jordan Mac Blue, 19, of Duluth, on a charge of possession of marijuana.

On Friday, Feb. 14, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on US 76 in Young Harris on a Honda Civic.

Upon further investigation, the driver, identified as Meredith Jane Reynolds, 19, of Hayesville, North Carolina, was arrested on the following charges: possession of drug-related objects and violation of window tint regulation. A Hiwassee Police officer assisted with the traffic stop.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, Towns County Sheriff's Office investigators and deputies conducted a search of a residence located on Deer Run in Hiwassee. Upon completion of the search and further investigation, the following suspects were arrested and charged:

Jack Douglas Cothren, 49, of Hiwassee, for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects.

Dena Robin Beasley, 49, of Hiwassee, for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects.

Clifton Cothren, 67, of Hiwassee, for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects.

On Friday, Feb. 21, a Towns County investigator and deputy made a traffic stop on State Route 66 in Young Harris on a Dodge Durango.

Upon further investigation, the driver, Donald Beck, 39, of Young Harris, was arrested on the following charges: possession of methamphetamine, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and possession of drug-related objects.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, a Towns County deputy on patrol

in the area of King Cove Road in Young Harris made contact with a subject walking.

Upon further investigation, the subject, Johnathan Dills, 38, of Young Harris, was arrested for two counts of possession of Schedule II drugs and one count of possession of drug-related objects.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, Towns County investigators and deputies searched a residence located off Mill Creek Road in Hiwassee. Upon completion of the search, the following suspects were arrested and charged:

Corey Hensley, 42, of Murphy, North Carolina, for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug-related objects and giving a false name to law enforcement. He also had a probation warrant.

Sonia Taylor, 43, of Hiwassee, for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects.

On Thursday, Feb. 27,

Towns County investigators and deputies, acting on information received from the Blairsville Police Department, searched a residence located off Lakeview Drive in Young Harris. Investigators located an indoor marijuana grow.

Upon further investigation, the following suspects were arrested and charged:

Katherine Bowman, 38, of Young Harris, for manufacturing marijuana, possession of marijuana and possession of drug-related objects.

Edward Carroll, 40, of Young Harris, for manufacturing marijuana, possession of marijuana and possession of drug-related objects.

On Friday, Feb. 28, Towns County investigators and deputies, after receiving information from Clay County (North Carolina) Sheriff's Office, arrested Zachary Hart, 22, of Warne, North Carolina, at a residence located off Tay Walk Way in Hiwassee.

Clay County Sheriff

Bobby Deese and his deputies assisted with the arrest.

Hart was wanted on warrants out of Clay County, North Carolina, for: trafficking in methamphetamine; possession/manufacturing/selling/distributing methamphetamine; and fleeing/eluding arrest. Hart was also wanted on an active probation warrant in Towns County.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the following departments for their help and assistance with the arrests of these suspects: Georgia State Patrol, Georgia State Probation, Hiwassee Police Department, Blairsville Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, and Clay County, North Carolina, Sheriff's Office.

These cases were 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.



Joshua Brinson



Elizabeth Brinson



Autumn Martin



Jack Hadley



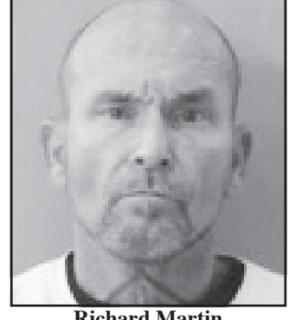
Tiffany Snow



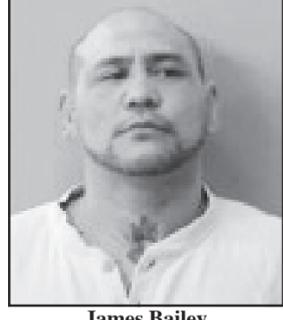
Nina Shelton



Chad Patterson



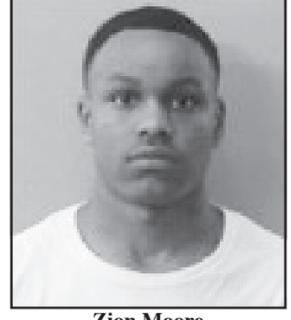
Richard Martin



James Bailey



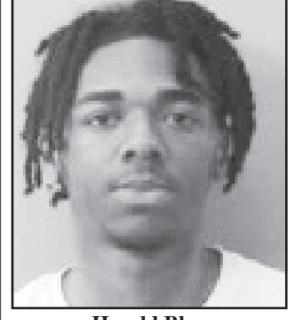
Jordan Bragg



Zion Moore



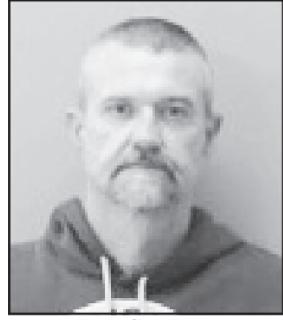
Joshua Smith



Harold Blue



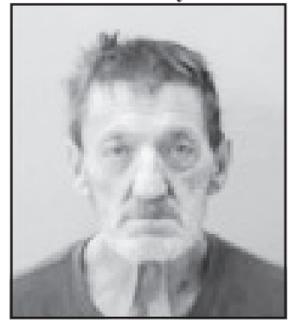
Meredith Reynolds



Jack Couthren



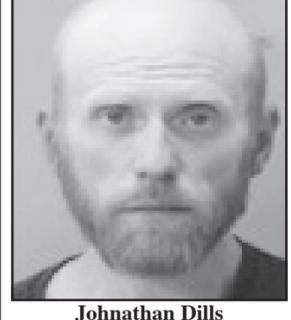
Dena Beasley



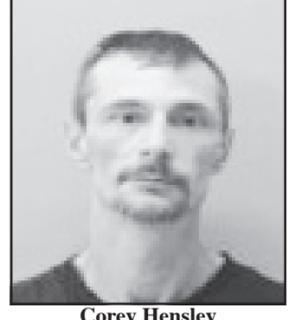
Clifton Couthren



Donald Beck



Johnathan Dills



Corey Hensley



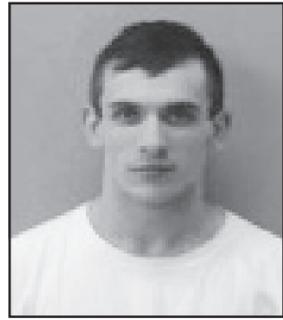
Sonia Taylor



Katherine Bowman



Edward Carroll



Zachary Hart

Sewer...from Page 1A

is, if a Hiwassee City Water customer doesn't pay his or her sewer bill, the city can disconnect that accountholder's water service to encourage repayment of what's owed.

However, since the Water Authority is in charge of some water accounts of customers who also receive city sewer services, the city has been unable to get the Water Authority to allow it to use water cutoff as leverage to collect on past-due bills owed to the city, Ordiales said.

"We've had, for the last three years, a little bit of a disagreement, and we haven't been able to collect on several sewer accounts," Ordiales said.

Citing tight budgetary margins within the sewer department, Ordiales said it's imperative that the city be the sole water provider in instances where it also provides sewer so that it can cut water service to encourage customers to pay their unpaid utilities.

The city has roughly 160 accounts that are subject to the sewer/water split between the city and Water Authority, the majority of which Ordiales said

pays its bills. But the customers who refuse to pay on their accounts have accrued more than \$20,000 in total unpaid sewer bills.

"That's more than 10% of our total in the bank money for the sewer department," Ordiales said.

To make matters worse, the city lost even more sewer revenues recently after having to write off about \$7,000 in related unpaid sewer bills upon switching to a new billing program, Ordiales said.

Being unable to collect on these past-due amounts is not only unfair to customers who manage to pay their bills, Ordiales said, but it also hurts the city's ability to maintain operations for everyone on the system, as regular upkeep is necessary.

And since the city has to keep each of its departments' finances separate, it's not like the city can just transfer reserve funds to the sewer, making the ability to enforce collections within the sewer department essential to the city, Ordiales said.

"Just today, I approved \$6,780 worth of repairs and

maintenance to the sewer department," Ordiales said. "It's an expensive proposition, and we just need to collect as much money as we can for that fund."

As such, the council voted unanimously in the Feb. 24 meeting to approve the moratorium on new sewer services in the county related to Water Authority accounts until such a time as the city can resolve its sewer service woes and figure out how to collect over \$20,000 in unpaid bills.

The moratorium will not affect current accounts but will remain in place for new accounts as the city and Water Authority enter into a mediation process this week to discuss possible solutions, Ordiales said.

One such solution would be for the city to service all water accounts where it also provides sewer, while another potential solution would be for the Water Authority to begin cooperating with the city's efforts to collect on past-due sewer bills.

Comments from the Towns County Water Authority Board were not available at press time.

Early Voting...from Page 1A



and Hiwassee's Fluoride Referendum.

As previously reported, concerning the SPLOST referendum, the county is calling for voters to decide on an estimated \$12 million SPLOST to be instituted starting Oct. 1 to finance renovations and possibly an addition to the Towns County Courthouse, which dates to 1964.

Voter approval of the SPLOST, to be collected over six years, will also constitute approval of the issuance of a General Obligation Bond not to exceed \$8 million to facilitate courthouse renovations and a possible addition.

The current Education-SPLOST, which makes up 1% of the 7% sales tax in Towns County, will expire on Sept. 30 this year, so the sales tax rate will simply remain the same at 7 cents on the dollar should voters approve the county's 1-cent SPLOST referendum on May 19.

Regarding the freeport exemption referendum, such an exemption would allow

businesses to temporarily store certain goods and raw materials without being subject to property taxes on those goods and materials, at least for a time.

If passed, the freeport exemption would aid existing small manufacturing businesses in Towns County and help to attract new ones, Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw said.

As for the fluoride referendum, Hiwassee is asking voters whether or not they want to add fluoride to the city drinking water supply that serves many people in Towns County.

A Nonpartisan General Election will run concurrently with the General Primary on May 19, and winners there will be sworn into office in 2020.

The voter registration deadline for the May 19 elections, during which the above three referendums and various candidates will be decided, will be April 20.

Be sure to visit the "Towns County Board of Elections and Registration" Facebook page for more local election information.