

Meth Bust...from Page 1A

sales and trafficking of methamphetamine.”

During the arrest, investigators took 7 ounces of meth out of circulation – worth about \$18,000 in street value – and seized three guns, multiple drug-related objects and \$24,400 in cash, according to the Sheriff’s Office.

Queen, 61, of Union County, has been charged with one count of trafficking methamphetamine and two counts of selling methamphetamine, with other

charges pending, one of which will be possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Sarah Mae McCarty, 22, of Murphy, North Carolina, is facing a charge of trafficking meth.

Barry Wayne Gerald, 46, of Blue Ridge, has charges of trafficking meth, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana and crossing the guard lines with drugs, according to the Sheriff’s Office.

State law defines trafficking as being in possession of more than 28 grams of meth. The higher the amount possessed, the harsher the penalty per conviction.

The 7 ounces of meth allegedly found in Queen, McCarty and Gerald’s possession equals roughly 199 grams. A conviction for trafficking between 28 and 200 grams of meth comes with a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$200,000.

If the amount of meth is between 200 and 400 grams, the penalty for trafficking increases to a mandatory minimum 15-year prison sentence with a \$300,000 fine.

The above individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

As of press time Monday, they remained in the Union County Jail without bond.

“It’s like we’ve preached all along: don’t do drugs or sell drugs in Union County,” Sheriff Mack Mason said. “There’s a real good chance you’re going to wind up paying the consequences, going to prison or whatever – we don’t want anybody using or abusing drugs.”

“We’re still on the job. We would like to ask the citizens of the county, if you see suspicious activity, give us a call. It’ll be an anonymous call; in other words, we won’t be putting your name out, and we will investigate it aggressively.”

“That’s how a lot of our cases are made, by citizens that are aware and don’t want this in their neighborhood. We aggressively answer all calls. Some calls turn out to not have anything to them, but some of them unfortunately do.”

“If someone has a drug problem, help is available. They need to reach out to these resources before their addiction gets worse and/or they wind up with criminal charges.”

“I appreciate everyone’s cooperation. It’s hard times, sad times – a lot of people can’t work, and they can’t go to church. This too will pass, and hopefully soon.”

National Guard...from Page 1A

our disinfecting teams and moving them toward our testing mission.”

As his battalion travels across the state, Hughes hopes that each community understands the guardsmen are there to assist, not to enforce martial law.

In fact, most Georgia National Guard soldiers were born and raised in the same

areas they’re tasked with serving during the pandemic.

“The people that are putting on the (National Guard) uniform are your neighbors, and when they take off the uniform, they are still members of your community,” he said. “There has been a lot of misinformation spread about us.”

“We’re just here to support our communities and

help ensure our friends and families remain safe.”

In addition to the Health System’s two hospitals and nursing homes, the National Guard also cleaned Brasstown Manor of Hiawassee last month as part of its mission to sanitize long-term care facilities around the state.



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