

DEA flyover nets less than 150 pot plants

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There's good news from the recent flyover search for marijuana crops in the North Georgia Mountains.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Agents and investigators and deputies with local law enforcement didn't find any marijuana patches in Union and Towns counties during a recent flyover of the North Georgia Mountains.

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said the routine flyover is something that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency helps with each year before the marijuana harvest season begins.

"It was good news," the sheriff said. "They didn't find any marijuana patches in Union and Towns counties. They found some in Rabun and Gilmer counties, but not any in our area."

"I like that kind of news," he said.

An unrelated flyover in Towns County by the Governor's Task Force, following a confidential tip, resulted in the arrest of 45-year-old Mark Anthony Woody after seven marijuana plants were found growing in the yard of his residence on Konahetah Road, in Hiawassee.

A ground team consisting of Appalachian Drug Task Force agents, Department of Natural Resources rangers, and a Towns County K-9 unit, arrived at the residence to investigate further.

Seven suspected marijuana plants were found in the yard of the residence, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office. A Fourth Amendment waiver allowed Towns County sheriff's deputies and Task Force agents to enter the home and continue the investigation.

An additional 26 suspected marijuana plants were found inside the residence, growing in several different rooms.

Also, law enforcement allegedly found numerous



DEA helicopters leave Blairsville Municipal Airport last week.

starter kits and items used for indoor growing, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

The confiscated marijuana plants were valued at almost \$37,000, according to the Towns' Sheriff's Office.

Meanwhile, the DEA flyover consisted of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, the U.S. Forest Service, local law enforcement and the Georgia State Patrol.

"Six helicopters were involved," Sheriff Mason said. "We had some leads that we checked out. We put some special emphasis on those areas. We searched areas where there had been patches of marijuana in the past."

"It was just a general flyover of the county," Sheriff Mason said. "They didn't find any marijuana in most of

the counties. They found approximately 173 plants, 112 in Rabun County, and 38 in Gilmer County.

"This is good news provided that we're being noticed by the drug people," he said. "The lack of plants tells me that these individuals that have grown marijuana in the mountains in the past now have a fear of being caught."

"In the past, there have been large fields of marijuana found in Union County," he said. "Because there is so much money involved in drug trafficking, people take risks and violate the law. We're going to do our very best to deter these types of operations."

"If anyone decides to make marijuana their cash crop, we're going to do our best to harvest it from them," Sheriff Mason said.



Union County Sheriff's Lt. Doug Loyd (back seat) prepares for a flight with the DEA. Photo/Charles Duncan

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Hood's Invocation, Kennetha Alexander led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, before Col. George Pletcher issued a prayer for our military, law enforcement, and all the first responders, and to honor those men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and for those who still remain in battle.

"Bless those who have given their lives in not just one war, but in far too many wars," Col. Pletcher prayed. "We also recognize all of those who have been wounded or disabled in the fight for freedom. Bless their families who have suffered right along with them."

Shaffer led the prayer for our nation's repentance to God.

"We ask that You will take over and take charge, and that You will glorify this nation again and align it with Your will and Your Word," Shaffer prayed.

With America on the brink of another conflict in the Middle East – this time with Syria – Mayor Conley prayed for our Nation's leaders.

"I pray Heavenly Father that they would look to you for their guidance before their decisions are made," Conley prayed. "I pray they will remember the foundation that was laid by the founders of this nation, and will seek the guidance of the God who created us all during this time of serious threats of war, and war crimes among people in other nations."

Lydia Long then opened

Indict

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tors with the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Enotah Judicial Circuit Senior Superior Court Judge Murphy Miller denied bond for both Ledford and Stokes following a hearing on Aug. 4th.

Adams-Donaldson, who spent a portion of her youth in Union County, was discovered in the old hand-dug well at the old Roper farm on Turner Turnpike in rural Towns County.

Her remains were recovered approximately at 7 p.m. on July 11th. The well was in close proximity to the residence where Adams-Donaldson lived and was murdered.

She was reported missing on June 24th by family members.

Ledford and Stokes have confessed to the crime, which murder warrants allege happened June 17th.

the meeting for anyone to pray and among those who did were Anniece Buckman and Mitzi Brumley, and there was no doubt that our soldiers and pending war were heavy on the hearts and minds of those who took the opportunity to pray.

After everyone's spoken prayers were sent, Long led the meeting in song. "I'll Fly Away," was the song for this month's meeting.

Long then made her closing remarks before Mark Alexander closed the meeting with the Benediction.

"I thank every one for coming out and I hope this won't be your last visit," Long said to everyone.

City Hall will open its doors again on Oct. 3rd for first Thursday of the month, Awake America Prayer at 11:59 a.m.

"Invite more people to come and share this good news. We all come in here with one face and that is The Church. We drop all of our denominations and agendas at the door. I'm thankful for Mayor Conley for having us," she said.