

## Shook...from Page 1A

County, North Carolina, after being wanted in Union County since Sept. 1, 2016, according to Union County Sheriff's Office reports.

Leading up to his arrest, Shook was wanted on two felony counts of rape, though he fled Union County before investigators could detain him, sheriff's reports show.

Once in custody Shook confessed to the crimes, according to Union County Sheriff's Detective Lt. Daren Osborn.

A native of Towns County, Shook has been living in Union County for more than a decade, though he was hiding out at a relative's house in Clay

County, NC, when he was taken into custody by UCSO Lt. Osborn, UCSO Detective Sgt. Tom Mangifesta and Clay County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Giles, sheriff's reports show.

Shook was extradited to Union County, and has been incarcerated since September 2016.

Also indicted in unrelated crimes, Jeffrey Dean Cowan, 56, of Blairsville, criminal attempt to commit a felony, armed robbery, three counts aggravated assault, hijacking a motor vehicle, false imprisonment, terroristic threats, possession of a knife during the commission of a felony, Superior Court records show.

At around 2:30 p.m. on the afternoon of Sunday, April 23, 2017 Cowan was picked up from Union County Jail by local bondsman Buck Dills, according to Lt. Osborn.

Dills was in the process of bonding Cowan out Sunday from a weeks old theft by taking charge, and Cowan told Dills that he needed to be driven to the Booger Hollow Store on Gainesville Highway to get the bond fee money from his waiting wife, according to Lt. Osborn.

No wife awaited them when the two arrived at the store, and Cowan cut Dills with a knife, then ran over to the neighboring Dollar General, according to Lt. Osborn.

"He went into the Dollar General Store and held

a knife to the clerk's throat, and threatened to kill her if she didn't give him the keys to her car," said Lt. Osborn.

That's how Cowan came to be driving an orange 2007 Honda Fit, according to Lt. Osborn.

Cowan was apprehended without incident by police in Marion, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 26.

Cowan, 56, of a Blairsville address, had been on the run since his violent disappearing act on Sunday, April 23.

Cowan was also indicted for theft by deception, theft by taking, and possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance.

## Phillips...from Page 1A

victorious.

In 2014, 3,657 members cast ballots, or 9 percent of the membership. In 2015, 9,045 members cast ballots, or 22.14 percent of the membership.

The three petition candidates that joined the board in 2015 were Mickey

Cummings, Roy Perren, and Larry Williams. Cherokee County, North Carolina Board Member Kenneth Lance resigned after the 2015 meeting.

In 2016, two new directors emerged from the EMC annual meeting of the

membership – Gene Mason of Union County and Cory Payne of Clay County, plus the return of Director Ray Cook of Cherokee County, the first board member appointed by the new board of directors.

Thanks to the work of the people elected during the last two election cycles, there was no need for any potential candidate to raise petitions to become nominated this go round.

Thanks to Phillips' leading the petition charge in 2014, the entire board of directors turned over, as Board Member Greg Owenby, who did not seek reelection, went off the board following the 2016 meeting.

And as Phillips said when he was elected in 2014, it was time for a change and time for transparency. The membership

remembered Phillips' fight in 2014 to promote change.

With the election of Mason, Payne and Cook, combined with the past two election cycles, the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC now has a completely new board of directors compared to just four years ago, when the EMC faced turmoil over unpaid power bills of former EMC President, Director Terry Taylor and his company.

As the board turns another page, Phillips was not available for comment regarding his resignation for personal reasons.

On Monday night, the board vetted candidates nominated for the September 2017 election cycle. A complete list of candidates will be made available later this week, Cummings said.

## Indictments...from Page 1A

recidivist.

**Jina Erin Garrett**, Violation of RICO Act, two counts Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, illegal use of communications facility, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug-related objects.

**Gabriel David Mott**, three counts aggravated child molestation, aggravated sexual battery against a child under 16, two counts statutory rape.

**David Eugene Mort**, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, suspended driver's license, seatbelt violation.

**Brandy Spivey**, eight counts of public assistance fraud.

**Gary Lee Dillingham**, terroristic threats, simple battery Family Violence.

**Paul Russell Brewster**, first-degree burglary, three counts obstruction of an officer, recidivist.

**Rita Kimbro Pruitt**, aggravated assault.

**Wyatt Steven Crawford**, two counts

possession of a controlled substance, methadone and methamphetamine.

**Fumiko Brook Snow**, possession of a controlled substance, oxycodone, possession of marijuana, less than an ounce.

**Henry Clay Snow**, two counts possession of a controlled substance, one county possession of a dangerous drug.

**Devon Lynn Davenport**, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, tampering with evidence, two counts obstruction of an officer.

**Gerald Lee McGuffey**, four counts sexual exploitation of children.

**John A. White**, neglect to a disabled elder adult.

**Theresa Ann White**, neglect to a disabled elder adult, simple battery, Family Violence.

**William Zachary Whitin**, possession of a controlled substance, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, driving without a license, too fast for conditions, open container.

**Brandon Tyler Condetti**, DUI Less Safe (alcohol), fleeing or attempt to elude a police officer, reckless driving, fail to maintain lane, driving while license suspended, open container.

**Jessie Dockery**, interference with government property.

**Jennifer Lee Kanady**, two counts first-degree burglary, interference with government property, possession of a controlled substance, theft by taking, and two counts criminal trespass.

**Katherine Belle Bowman**, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug-related objects, giving false information to a law enforcement officer.

**Jennifer Lee Kanady**, Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act.

**David Lewis Brown**, aggravated assault, Family Violence, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

**Angela Renay Beavers**, two counts aggravated assault, Family Violence, three counts battery, Family Violence, two counts battery, and criminal trespass.

**Timothy Michael Boyer**, two counts theft by taking, two counts theft by conversion.

**Douglas Robert Kaltenmark**, theft by taking, theft by conversion.

**April Deal Higgins**, theft by taking, theft by conversion.

**Darren Jeffrey Ware**, theft by deception, theft by taking.

**Joshua Dustin Carnes**, armed robbery, two counts aggravated assault, three counts first-degree burglary, battery, Family Violence.

**Cory Randall Lawler**, DUI, DUI Less Safe (alcohol), suspended driver's license, failure to yield right of way, seatbelt violation, expired tag.

**William Thomas Mainer**, criminal damage to property, second-degree, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass.

**Donald Gregory Graham**, possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, possession of drug-related objects.

**Christopher Lorrell Tinney**, defective windshield, suspended driver's license.

**Matthew Plot**, open container.

## Burglary...from Page 1A

there that knows something about this," said Blairsville PD Assistant Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter. "We need help in this case. It's crucial that we get any information that we can."

In a July 22 post to the BPD Facebook account, the department shared an account of the burglary and several screenshots taken from surveillance footage, and Baxter is hopeful someone will recognize the burglar.

"We do not like crime in our town, and hope to swiftly track down and arrest the person or persons responsible," reads part of the Facebook post.

The post continued: "They were wearing a navy colored ski mask or toboggan with holes cut into it, a navy colored shirt, camouflage shorts, and tan work boots with a black top on them.

"There is a picture of similar work boots listed with the photos. The criminal also

appears to have short hair, from what can be partially seen in video footage."

BPD is asking that anyone with information about the Dunkin' Donuts burglary, including anonymous tipsters, call the 24-hour 911 non-emergency number at (706) 439-6038, or the Blairsville Police Department at (706) 835-1692.

Individuals can also contact the police department via Facebook, though, due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, the department is asking that people directly message the BPD Facebook account instead of posting information in the public comments section.

In order to minimize the impact of crimes like this one, law enforcement officials advise businesses to keep as little cash as possible in their stores afterhours, and to make regular deposits by close of business each day.