

Geneva County Reaper



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DRUG BUST

Hartford PD Makes 8 Drug Arrests at 4 a.m. in the Morning!

Stephen Crews
Geneva Newspapers

Hartford Police Chief Greg Adams is well aware that residents in his city are tired of the drug problems that go on each day. Friday morning his department took action.

The entire police force met at the police station just before 4 a.m. on Friday morning to look for 12 individuals who they have been watching for some time now and believe are some key players in the distribution of marijuana, cocaine and meth in the city of Hartford.

Officers were briefed on the plans and procedures for the special early morning operation with an officer being assigned a certain individual they were supposed to take into custody.

Officers were also reminded to use caution and to be as polite as possible due to it being so early in the morning.

While officers were making the arrests, Adams would be assisting at various locations throughout the city while the mobile crime unit would be dispatched to pick up anyone arrested.

After the briefing and a few final questions and comments, officers headed out into the town where they were able to make six initial arrests. An additional two arrests warrants were issued for two individuals already in custody for previous

charges.

Arrested in the operation were:

- Adrienne Denise Berry of 703 6th Avenue in Hartford;

- Calvin Eugene Smith of 303 Rena Drive;

- Daniel Lee Smith of Slocomb Road;

- Willie Junior Wheeler of 317 Williams Circle;

- Anthony Bruce (Tony) Powell of Dundee Trailer Park;

- Adrienne Neal of 309 North 3rd Avenue;

Already in jail but charged as well are Christopher Bernard Parks and Derrick Lawrence.

Following the initial arrests, two additional arrests were made. Hartford officers arrested Linda Powell, mother of Tony Powell for disorderly conduct after she confronted officers several times, even after being warned to go home or face the possibility of being arrested. She was also booked and taken to the Geneva County Jail.

Brandon Anderson was also arrested on failure to appear warrants after he was located at one of the residences in question.

Before officers were able to return to the police department, calls started pouring in to the dispatcher from some who had already learned of arrests being made. As is normal procedure, dispatchers told those calling that no information had been provided about the



Hartford Police Department Investigator Don White assists Adrienne Denise Berry from her residence after arresting her Friday morning on drug distribution charges. (Staff photo by Stephen Crews)

arrests to the dispatchers.

Once each arrest report was completed, officers took those arrested to the Geneva County Jail where they were held pending bonds for their crimes.

According to Chief

Adams, the drug operation began several months ago with some surveillance and buys in the area. The operation has focused mainly on targeting some of the distributors in the Hartford area.

"We are just scratching the surface," said Adams. "We are simply trying to get their attention right now."

Adams says that it is not uncommon for his office to receive calls about the drug problems and

they want something done about those problems. "We get letters all the time from citizens who just want their neighborhoods back." This is just the beginning of our effort to take back these neighborhoods for the residents."



Anthony Bruce Powell makes his way out of the Hartford Police Department mobile command truck after being arrested Friday morning on drug distribution charges. (Staff photo by Stephen Crews)



Calvin Smith



Adrian Berry



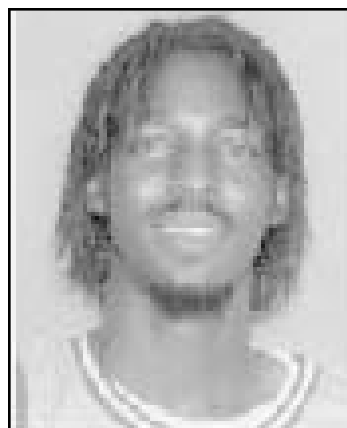
Adrienne Neal



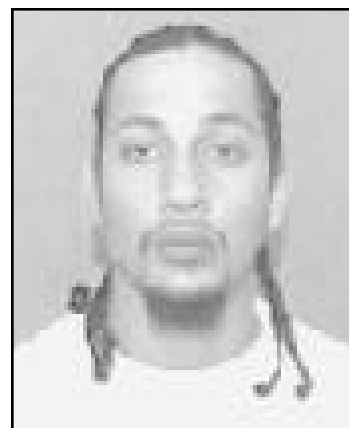
Daniel Lee Smith



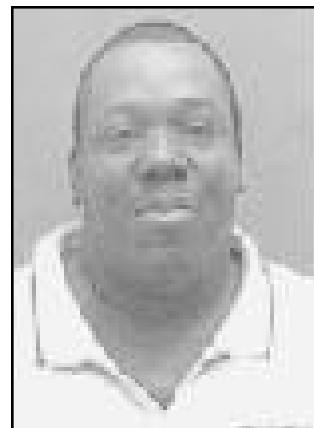
Anthony Powell



Chris Parks



Derreck Lawrence



Willie Wheeler

U.S. Marshals Make Attempted Murder Arrest in Slocomb

Stephen Crews
Geneva Newspapers

U.S. Marshals arrested Sunny Lee Thompson in Slocomb on Thursday, January 25 on two counts of attempted murder charges for crimes he committed in Fort Myers, Florida approximately three weeks ago. He was arrested and taken into custody without any trouble.

U.S. Marshals arrested 27-year-old Sunny Lee Thompson without incident at a Slocomb store. They were assisted by the

Slocomb Police Department and the Geneva County Drug Task Force.

He's charged with attempted murder in connection with a drive-by shooting that left two men wounded in Fort Myers, Florida. He traveled to Geneva County to hide-out at a relative's home. His two brothers, Oscar and Eric, have both been arrested and charged for the same crime.

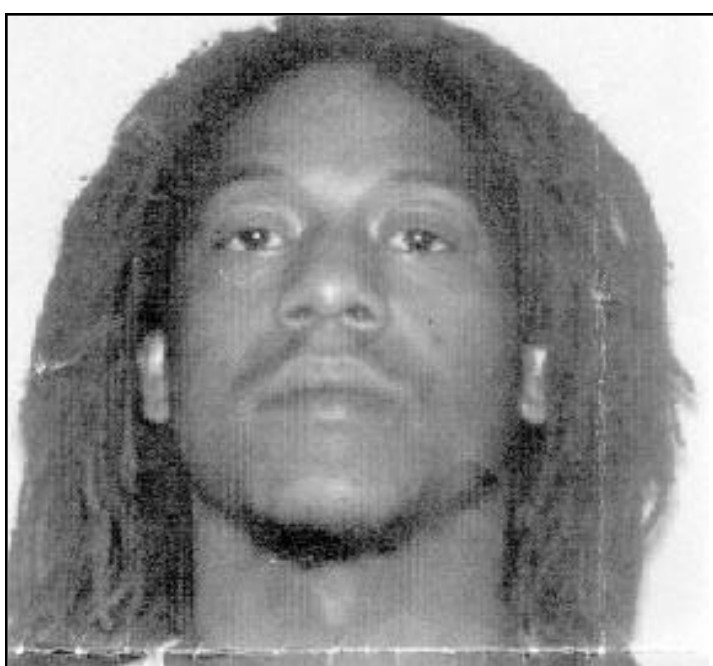
Authorities were able to locate Thompson after receiving a crimestoppers tip. They also say that Thompson is a three-time

convicted felon and has been acquitted before of second-degree murder.

Authorities say assault rifles were used in the attack that left one man with wounds to the chest and another man with wounds to the abdomen. He is alleged to have sprayed the two men with up to 20 rounds from the assault rifle.

Thompson is being held in the Geneva County Jail awaiting extradition back to Florida.

Both men have survived the attacks. It appears that the motive for the crime is a feud over a girl.



Arrest Made

U.S. Marshals arrested Sunny Lee Thompson on two counts of attempted murder for a drive-by shooting in Fort Meyers, Florida on January 10. Thompson was arrested in Slocomb on Thursday, January 25 without incident in a store parking lot. He is currently being held in the Geneva County Jail where he is awaiting extradition back to Florida for his crimes.

Man at Head of Three-Day Chase Convicted in 10 Minutes

Ann Henderson
Geneva Newspapers

Guillermo Salazar testified Wednesday, January 24 he had asked God for forgiveness for stealing a gun and food and leading law enforcement personnel on a three-day manhunt in late-August.

The Geneva County Circuit Court jury deliberat-



Guillermo Salazar

ed 10 minutes to determine Salazar still needed to atone for his earthly actions.

"He said he knew there were consequences for his actions," said Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams. "I told him I'm glad God has forgiven him. But he is now looking at serious time."

Salazar, 34, was arrested

Wednesday, August 30 after leading Geneva, Dale, Jackson and Holmes county law enforcement officers on a three-day chase from Slocomb to the Estocoma Community across the Florida line.

He had apparently broken into a house while on the run and stole a gun, water, food and a machete. Adams said police were able

to track Salazar as he dropped some of the items along the route.

Salazar was wanted for questioning in a domestic violence case that had also included a charge of shooting into an occupied dwelling in Slocomb and a robbery charge for a separate incident. He testified he ran because he thought the police "were going to kill

him," according to Adams.

Salazar, who was born in Texas, was easily identified by the law enforcement officers who testified during the three-day trial, said Adams.

He remains in Geneva County Jail to await the results of a pre-sentencing investigation. Adams said the sentencing hearing should be held within 45 days.

\$1 Million Bond Set in Sodomy Case

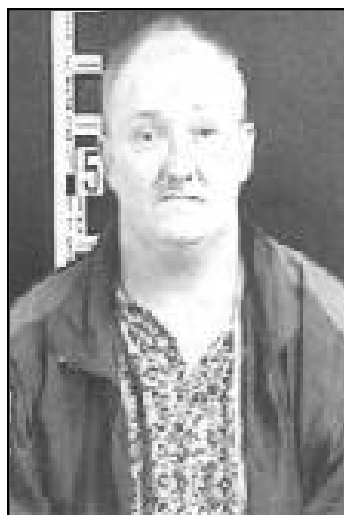
Ann Henderson
Geneva Newspapers

"I'm very glad Geneva County District Judge Charles Fleming allowed us the opportunity to be heard in his bond," Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams said of the first \$1 million bond set in the county.

Mart T. Harrison, 37, of Malvern, was arrested on one charge of deviate sexual behavior with an 11-year-old girl, said Geneva County Major Crimes Investigator Tony Helms.

"I'm very pleased with the bond," said Helms. Harrison was not in the county when the arrest warrant was signed. He had traveled out of state when he was asked to leave his residence, said Helms.

"The bond will give us the opportunity to get him in jail and investigate the case to see if there are



Mart T. Harrison

Mart T. Harrison, 37, of Malvern has been arrested and charged with one count of deviate sexual behavior with an 11-year-old girl. He is currently being held in the Geneva County Jail on a \$1 Million Dollar Bond. He was arrested on Friday, January 19 when he appeared at the Geneva County Sheriff's Department to collect court papers.

Wednesday, January 24 before Fleming.

Harrison, who listed his occupation as a meat cutter, was arrested Friday, Jan. 19 at the Geneva County Sheriff's Department when he arrived to collect other court papers.

He was at the sheriff's office to pick up a protection order that had been granted to try to keep him away from the children, said Helms.

other charges," said Helms.

From physical examination of the victim and information from the mother, Helms said Harrison had apparently committed sodomy on the girl and asked her to perform oral sex on him.

There is the possibility Harrison also committed similar crimes on a two-year-old in the same area, said Helms.

The bond was set during a first-appearance hearing



Accidents Galore

Geneva Police, Fire and Rescue as well as the Geneva County Sheriff's Department responded to this two-car accident on Friday morning, January 26 at approximately 8:00 a.m. This was one of three accidents in the Geneva area on Friday morning that led to responses by emergency personnel. The first occurred at approximately 1 a.m. about five miles south of Geneva on County Road 4. Another accident a few hours later. (Staff photos by Stephen Crews)

Arrest Made in String of Robberies in the Wiregrass

Geneva robbery played key role in arrest being made

Stephen Crews
Geneva Newspapers

A good description by a victim in a Wednesday, January 24 robbery in Geneva may have played a key role in an arrest being made by law enforcement officials.

A Dale County judge has set bond at \$25,000 for Mark Gabriel Perry, 37, of Union Springs, a man who police believe is behind a spree of robbery and sexual assault in the Wiregrass.

Perry, 37, is facing charges of first-degree robbery, third-degree robbery and attempted rape. Police believe Perry robbed the Title Max in Ozark on Wednesday as well as a Cash Advance business in Geneva on Wednesday evening.

Police also believe Perry committed robbery and attempted rape at a Newton post office on Dec. 26, 2006. He was arrested in Union Springs Thursday night.

Dale County District



Mark Gabriel Perry

Judge Stan Garner set a cash-only bond of \$25,000 for Perry at a first appearance hearing Friday.

More charges may be pending against Perry. Warrants have been obtained by the Troy Police Department charging Perry with a robbery there on Tuesday.

Dothan police say Perry is a suspect in a robbery and rape that happened at a business on West Main Street near Flowers Chapel Road on the same day the Newton post office was robbed. Dothan Police Capt. Nick Monday said Dothan officers are working on obtaining warrants on Perry related to that

case.

The Title Max robbery in Ozark was caught on tape by video surveillance equipment. Ozark Deputy Police Chief Myron Williams said the video, along with a CrimeStoppers tip, led to

Perry's capture.

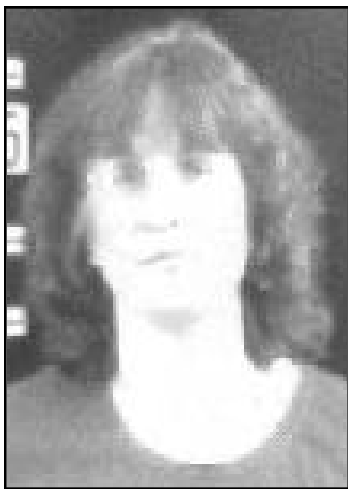
"The tip was the absolute clue to the case, along with the video surveillance," he said.

At the time of Perry's arrest Thursday, he was out on bond on charges of at-

See Robbery, Page 5A

Former Slocomb Magistrate Pleads to taking \$19,000 in Court Fees in Circuit Court

**Ann Henderson
Geneva Newspapers**



Patsy Barron

The first full-time magistrate for the city court system in Slocomb pleaded guilty to felony theft of property charges Wednesday, January 24 in Geneva County Circuit Court.

Patsy Elaine Barron, 39, of East Main Street, Slocomb, surrendered to the Geneva County Jail on June 1. She was arrested for taking about \$10,000 in money that had been paid for municipal court fines to pay for on-line gambling.

Barron will remain free on the \$10,000 signature bond she signed at her arrest until a probation investigation is completed.

Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams said Barron will not be eligible for the pre-trial diversion program even though this is her first felony arrest. The diversion program allows some first-time offenders an opportunity to waive a conviction and prison time to follow strict guidelines of rehabilitation and payment of court-related costs.

"A public official who is arrested for a crime involving public money is not eligible for any program the court system has to offer," said Adams. "She was entrusted to handle public

money. When that trust is broken, she will not get the benefit of a sentencing break."

An audit of the municipal fund indicated \$19,092.89 was missing from September 2005 until May 2006. The receipts showed payments of \$52,801.79 but deposits of only \$33,708.90.

The audit was performed by Carr, Riggs and Ingram, LLC of Geneva. The cost of the audit was \$950.

Theft of property is a Class B felony that carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in a state penitentiary.

Circuit Judge Ben McLaughlin sentenced Barron to 60 months in a state prison and ordered her to pay court costs, \$100 to the Victims Compensation Fund and

restitution. She entered an oral application for probation following the plea.

"I think a lot of her future depends on her willingness to repay the money," said Adams. "I'm sure Slocomb would sure like to have the money back."

A probation hearing should be held within two months.

Barron's scheme was noticed in February 2006 by Slocomb City Clerk Peggy Armstrong.

"She approached me with her suspicions of a discrepancy of funds," said Slocomb Mayor Vickie Moore. "The investigation began at that point."

The length of time between the initial concern and the arrest was to recheck the receipts and bank statements for her fund transfers, said Moore.

Barron had been an employee with Slocomb for eight years. She was hired as a police dispatcher in 1998. When the E911 answering center was located in Slocomb, Barron was one of the first city dispatchers to be trained to answer E911 calls.

When the dispatch service was transferred to the E911 dispatch center north of Geneva in 2005, Barron was promoted to magistrate. Until then, the city clerk had performed the



Feeding the Compassionate

Steve Henly is shown with the 21.5-pound cabbage he grew in the family home garden on Simmons Road between Geneva and Hartford and cut on Sunday, January 21. He bought the plant from Sherwood's Milling Company in Geneva and used horse manure and Miracle-Gro as fertilizer. The cabbage was donated to the Geneva County Department of Human Resources for a foster family. The couple who received the cabbage have three children and are currently serving as the foster parents of a relative's four children.

Robbery

Continued from Page 1A
tempted rape and theft in Troy. According to police, Perry assaulted a Troy University student. Perry's bond was set at \$7,500 for the rape charge and \$5,000 for the theft charge.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," Williams said of Perry's arrest. "We needed this person off the

street."
Geneva Police Chief Frankie Lindsey said that he was pleased with the arrest on Monday morning when appearing on WGEA 1150AM. Lindsey says that the victim in the Geneva case was able to give a good description of the suspect which in turn helped with the arrest being made on Thursday evening.

"She was able to identify the suspect in question,"

said Lindsey.
The suspect apparently entered the Geneva business and was very patient as he was told by the victim to have a seat while she was finishing up other business. After calling upon the suspect, he proceeded to take her to the back of the store where he used duct tape to tie her up and eventually take a large amount of cash according to reports.

Dale-Geneva County Task Force Meets at Child Advocacy Center



Standing left to right are: Chief Deputy Tim McDonald, Dale County Sheriff's Department; Chief David Land, Slocomb Police Department; Chief Greg Adams, Hartford Police Department; Chief Frankie Lindsey, Geneva Police Department; Captain Ronnie Williamson, Wiregrass Violent Crimes Drug Task Force; Chief Jimmy Seaton, Daleville Police Department; Chief Gary Weeks, Samson Police Department; Sheriff Greg Ward, Geneva County Sheriff's Department; and District Attorney Kirke Adams.

Special to Geneva Newspapers

On Friday, January 19, 2007, Dale-Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams, coordinated a meeting of the Dale-Geneva County Multidisciplinary Task Force at the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

The Task Force has been formed to address the needs of child sexual abuse victims in Dale and Geneva Counties. In an effort to strengthen the multidisciplinary team approach to the investigation of child abuse cases, the Task Force will establish protocols and interagency agreements.

The investigations of child abuse cases are very complex for both the families and those professionals who have the responsibility of ensuring the safety of the child. By using a multidisciplinary team approach, the focus in on the child and the team working together to ensure the child's best interest is being addressed.

Sherryl Walker, CAC Executive Director, and Liz Martin, CAC Program Director, presented information about the Child

Advocacy Center and the steps which must be met to meet the standard requirements of the Alabama Network of Children's

Advocacy Centers and the National Children's Alliance. The Task Force was able to tour the CAC and to ask questions about the CAC

programs and services.

As District Attorney, Mr. Adams has taken a pro-active approach in regard to the investigations and prosecution of child abuse cases. He thanked the representatives from local law enforcement, the Department of Human Resources, and the Child Advocacy Center for their participation in the meeting and asked for the group to work together to make sure abused children in Dale and Geneva

Counties receive the best possible multidisciplinary team services.

Hartford Agrees to Roof PD

Ann Henderson
Geneva Newspapers

After about 30 minutes of questions about insurance and financing, the Hartford City Council agreed Monday night to reject a USDA grant/loan package and re-roof one building at a time.

The city had been awarded a USDA financing plan of \$147,000 in 2005 with \$82,000 in loan and \$65,000 in grant to put metal roofs on the Johnny Hughes Community Center, the library and the police station.

But after the bids came in a few weeks ago, the low bid turned out to be \$313,083. The bid for the community center was \$247,213 and the police station was \$65,870. There was a 30-day window to accept the bid.

The council did not make a decision at the regular session January 22. But with time running out, a special session was called Monday.

Bob Brackin, of Bob's Construction and Remodeling in Geneva, had given a proposal of \$22,475 to put a sloped metal roof on the police station.

But he does not have workman's compensation insurance. Many of the insurance companies that insured contractors, and especially roofers, pulled out of Alabama about three years ago, he said. Alabama is second behind California in frivolous lawsuits, he said.

Brackin said he talked with two insurance agents and the prices ranged from \$65,000 to \$30,000 for a year. Since the cost is based on payroll, the price for the police station would be \$10,000.

Council member Jo Ann Lindsey asked if the city could put Brackin and his employees on the city payroll as contract laborers.

Council member Ken Hales said paying for the injury would be a short-term cost. But the medical bills for the person would be the city's responsibility for the remainder of his life.

Brackine was meeting with the council to discuss his price for doing the roofing projects. "I could save you about \$100,000."

Mayor Eria Sorrells asked about the interior of the police station since a ceiling beam seems to have sagged from the roof leaks.

Brackin said that was not part of his proposal since he only looked at the roof.

Brackin uses a coil of sheet metal and crimps the surface in the pattern that best fits the roof type.

For the police station, he would take off the back four-foot fire wall and put flashing

over the panels so the rain-water falls into the gutter. The metal would have a one-inch panel.

The roof on the police station was a hot tar mixture that had not been replaced in several years.

Brackin also said he would place a four-inch layer of styrofoam between the old roof and the new metal layer.

After Brackin left the meeting room at city hall, the council discussed the debt that would be incurred with the USDA package.

City Clerk/Treasurer Vicky Marsh said a USDA representative had agreed to increase the financing plan to \$109,000 in grant and \$203,500 in loan for a 30-year period.

Hales, who is an accountant, said the re-payment would equal \$360,000 at the end of the loan.

"I can't see spending that kind of money that's in the bids," said Hales. "Or tying up the city for 30 years."

Council member Paul Fondren suggested doing the roof projects in stages, starting with the police station and moving to the library and community center. The library has a flat roof and was an addition to the building that was once a high school.

"With patching, the Hughes center could wait till next budget year," said Fondren.

Sorrells mentioned the town could not wait another 18 months to get an answer from USDA about the financing and wait for new bids.

"But this let's you know the issues," he said. The city had three bids that were double the money.

Hales then made the motion to stop the pursuit of the USDA financing package and Fondren gave the second. The vote was unanimous.

The next motion by council member Jo Ann Lindsey was to reject the roof bids. Fondren gave the second and the vote was unanimous.

The next order of business was to agree to pay the professional fees of bond attorney and architect. Council member Wendel Nolen made the motion and Hales gave the second. The vote was unanimous.

Marsh said the action was necessary to keep the records correct since the amount for the roof project would be included in the budget for professional fees.

The last action was a motion by Fondren to contract with Brackin for the police station roof. The second was given by Hales and the vote was unanimous.

Since the price falls below \$50,000, the council does not have to bid the roof on the police station and can contract for the work.

Brackin had said earlier the work could begin within three weeks since his company is not busy with other jobs.

Sorrells and the council stressed a waiver was needed in the contract. The waiver will place Brackin as responsible for accidents at the job site.



Linda Powell, mother of Tony Powell who was arrested in the drug operation on Friday morning, was also arrested on Friday morning for disorderly conduct. Ms. Powell arrived at numerous locations during the raid and used so much profanity and verbal abuse towards several officers that she was arrested. (Staff photo by Stephen Crews)



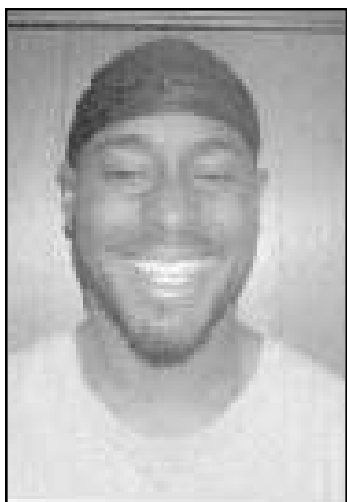
Suspects get off of the Hartford PD Mobile Command Unit.



Suspects wait to be booked at the Hartford Police Station.



Don White fills out paper work on each arrest.



Brandon Anderson was arrested by the Hartford PD on a failure to appear charge Friday morning when he was located at one of the houses that officers went to in order to make a drug related arrest. Anderson was one of two additional arrests made that were non-drug related.