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2 Sections

Law Enforcement Busts Wiregrass Choppers in Hartford

Stephen Crews
Geneva Newspapers

Donald Lashley is no stranger to law enforcement officials in Geneva County. Lashley's name is once again on their minds after officials busted up an operation that appeared to be Wiregrass Choppers on the outside but was more than that on the inside.



Donald Lashley

When law enforcement officials entered the backroom of the business they found a full scale bar with a large assortment of alcohol including over three gallons of moonshine and an elevated pole dancing area with mirrored walls.

From there officials found another room that was in the process of being constructed that was going to be bedrooms. Officials believe that the area was going to be used for some type of illegal operations. The bedroom areas has video and audio systems setup.

According to Sheriff Greg Ward, officials began

receiving tips on the business after several people started to complain that Lashley was paying them with checks that were bouncing. From there officials received a tip from someone that they had bought a beer at the establishment and explained to officials the entire setup that had been created in the backroom.

Ward said that based on the information he contacted the Alabama Beverage Control Agency and the Hartford Police Department and a decision was made to bust the business. The planned kickoff for the backroom was scheduled for Friday night, December 5 according to sources.

Ward said that he was surprised to find such an operation in Geneva County. "Something like this is simply not going to be tolerated in Geneva County," said Ward. "We believe at this time that Mr. Lashley is the only person involved although we are just getting started with this investigation."

ABC Agent David Hall has worked with the
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Lots of Evidence

Sherriff Greg Ward, Geneva County Investigator and soon to be Hartford Police Chief Ben Berry and ABC Agent David Hall stand behind a large amount of alcohol they confiscated at Wiregrass Choppers in Hartford last week. (Staff photo by Stephen Crews)

LASHLEY

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Geneva County Sheriff's Department before going to work for ABC. "In all my years of working Geneva County I have never seen an operation like this," said Hall.

Lashley has had previous problems with the law. He was convicted on March 11, 2008 of two counts of theft by deception. Lashley was convicted for writing checks in the amount of \$5,743.14 to Panhandle Salvage and \$2,601.76 to Alabama Power. His wife, Amy Clark Lashley, was also charged and pled guilty to three

counts of theft by deception at the time.

Lashley received a 20-year prison sentence on the theft by deception charges while his wife received probation in the matter.

Lashley was the owner of Chaos Crib in the Center Plaza Shopping Center. He was also a professional wrestler named Chaos. Lashley held opening night events at the business before taking the opening night money and running.

Lashley turned himself into officials on Tuesday evening, December 2 after agreeing to do so earlier in the day.

Lashley has previously been charged for similar crimes in Tennessee and