



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Barry H. Babb, Sheriff **June 20, 2014**

Press Information

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On June 9, 2014 the Fayette County Sheriff's Office Southeastern Regional Fugitive Taskforce (SERFTF) Officer initiated a fugitive investigation seeking 36 year old Billy Owens Jr. of Senoia, Georgia. Owens has an extensive criminal history and was wanted on charges in Fayette County as well as several other counties and state probation charges. The investigation was initiated by the U.S. Marshall's SERFTF since Owens was wanted by multiple agencies and believed to be highly mobile. On June 1, 2014 Owens fled from Pike County Sheriff's Deputies and stole a vehicle. He was not located again until Owens entered Fayette County where Sheriff's Deputies initiated a traffic stop on a stolen vehicle from Pike County bearing a tag stolen from Clayton County. Owens fled the officer at that traffic stop and ran into the woods. Clayton County's helicopter responded to the chase and assisted in seeking the fugitive. Owens was able to again get away from deputies and steal another vehicle, this time in Fayette County. The Fayette County vehicle was later found in Clayton County.

On June 17, 2014 The U.S. Marshall's SERFTF encountered Owens driving a box truck away from a relative's home in Woodstock, Georgia. Owens attempted to flee and in the process, struck a SERFTF task force officer, injuring his arm. The officer, in fear for his life, shot at Owens but did not strike him. The officer was treated at a local hospital and released. Officers pursued Owens as he sped away in the box truck. He drove into a subdivision under construction and eventually into the woods where the truck became disabled and Owens exited and continued the pursuit on foot. The truck was found to have been stolen from Pike County days earlier. Officers utilized numerous resources searching for Owens on the 17th to include two aircraft and six police K-9s. Despite the effort, Owens was not located.

On the night of the 17th, Owens made his way to a Cherokee County Water Department facility where he was able to steal a government vehicle. It is believed that he drove the truck to Lamar County where he fell asleep in the parking lot of a church in Lamar. At approximately 7:00 AM on June 18th, Lamar County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a suspicious person call at the church. When Lamar County Deputies attempted to make contact with Owens, he drives away and deputies pursued. Owens again drove into the woods and abandoned the stolen truck. Lamar deputies established a perimeter and enlisted the help of police K-9's. Multiple agencies responded to Lamar County to assist in the hunt. At about 6:00 PM, a SERFTF officer spotted Owens near a home and took him into custody as he tried to hide under shrubbery. Much like the hunt for Owens on the 17th, numerous resources were utilized to locate Owens. Three aircraft, a fixed wing plane, and two police K-9's contributed to the successful search. Several agencies contributed to the weeks long hunt for Owens including: U.S. Marshall's SERFTF, Clayton County Police, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia State Patrol, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, Lamar County Sheriff's Office, Fulton County Police

Department, Coweta County Sheriff's Office, Woodstock Police Department, Sandy Springs Police Department, Georgia Department of Corrections, Rockdale County Sheriff's Office, Fayette County Sheriff's Office, and Pike County Sheriff's Office. Owens is currently housed in the Fayette County Jail charged with Fleeing and attempting to elude, reckless driving, open container, obstruction of a law enforcement officer, convicted felon in possession of a firearm, theft by taking, theft by taking motor vehicle x3, and entering auto. There are also numerous holds placed on Owens for warrants taken by other agencies.

****Please attribute any quotes or statements to Sheriff Barry H. Babb****