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it's an exciting atmosphere, the family will be here. It's a special time personally."

One of the most special moments of Tommy Townsend's career was the night he and his father performed together center stage at Ryman Auditorium at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn.

"That was one of the greatest moments of my career, being up there on the biggest stage of them all and Dad was up there picking with me," Tommy Townsend said.

"A little while later someone from Blairsville came up to me and said that they had seen me at Ryman Auditorium and my Dad was up there picking with me.

"And that was special, someone from Blairsville, my hometown, actually got to share in one of my most memorable moments," he said.

Townsend has been busy promoting his Granddaddy Mimm's whiskey, he'll soon head to the Dominican Republic where there appears to be a great demand for the family recipe, concocted long ago by Tommy Townsend's grandfather, Jack McClure.

A native of Young Harris, McClure made the best moonshine and fruit brandies in the in the North Georgia Mountains and made a profitable living for him and his family.

McClure's moonshine money was the difference be-

tween going hungry and meat, beans and taters on the table for many families in Towns and Union counties.

"We're almost there, almost ready to launch Granddaddy Mimm's Authentic Corn Whiskey," Tommy Townsend said. "It's been a busy summer, but, it's been a good summer.

"Being able to be here in Blairsville and spend time with family and friends means the world to me," he said.

"I've been blessed in my lifetime," he said.

On Jan. 25, Townsend announced his partnership with Georgia Distilling Company Inc. in Milledgeville to recreate and market his grandfather's original moon-

shine recipes legally for the first time. Dubbed Granddaddy Mimm's

Authentic Corn Whiskey, and Peach and Apple brandies, these mountain spirits will be produced on stills using the Jack McClure design, and built in Georgia using his secret family recipe originated in Towns County.

The back label on the whiskey bottle urges those who partake of the spirits to "drink responsibly and don't forget to tithe on Sunday."

McClure's moonshine recipe had been stored away in the family's memory for more than 40 years. Moonshine is legal today, just as long as the government collects the tax revenue.

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energy costs to support the economic security of Georgia families.

The final question asks if the state should reduce the sales tax on Made in Georgia products to help support the growth of small businesses in Georgia.

The Republican ballot includes the same local races as the nonpartisan and Democratic ballots.

At the state level, the GOP ballot pits Incumbent Chuck Eaton against challenger Matt Reid for Public Service Commissioner. Also on the PSC ballot, Incumbent Stan Wise faces the challenge of Pam Davidson.

Also on the Republican Ballot, in the 9th District Congressional Race, Roger Fitzpatrick, Doug Collins and Martha Zoller hope to earn 50 percent of the Primary vote to avoid a runoff.

The candidates are seeking to fill the redistricted 9th District seat.

Straw poll questions on the GOP ballot include whether Georgia should have casino gambling with funds going to education.

Also, voters are asked whether they want to end unlimited gifts from lobbyists to state lawmakers by imposing a \$100 cap on gifts.

The GOP straw poll also asks if active duty personnel

under the age of 21 should be allowed to obtain a Georgia weapons license.

That's followed by the question of whether citizens who wish to vote in a primary election be required to register by their party affiliation at least 30 days prior to the primary election.

Finally, the GOP ballot asks if the Georgia Constitution be amended to provide that the paramount right to life is vested in each innocent from his or her earliest biological beginning without regard to age, race, sex, health, function, or condition of dependency. One person Democrats, Republicans or Independents won't be casting ballots for this election year, actually, for the first time in 44 years, is retiring Tax Commissioner J.W. Payne. Payne has called it a career, with the end of his final four-year term coming in December. Payne, a life-long Democrat, decided not to qualify for reelection because of pending health issues. He's facing back surgery following a logging accident that left him in constant pain. Republican Lee Knight and Democrat Larry Trulove qualified to run for tax commissioner. Ballots for that election won't count until November. Only two incumbents, Clerk

of Superior Court, Judy Odom, and Chief Magistrate Johnny Garmon were unopposed at the end of qualifying on May 23. Democrat and Sole Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris faces Republican Charles Rich in November. GOP Incumbent Coroner Benny Erwin faces a November election against Deputy Coroner Benny Brookshire, a Blairsville Democrat. Democratic Incumbent Sheriff Scott Stephens faces Republican challenger Mack Mason in November. Board of Education members Gary Davenport from District 1, and Carlton Collins from District 3, both have November opposition. Patricia Bertuna qualified on the Republican ticket to face Davenport in District 1; Cynthia Byers qualified on the Republican ticket to face Collins in District 3. In the District 8 State House race, Incumbent Stephan Allison, a Blairsville Republican, faces 58-year-old Democrat Jana Hill of Clayton. In District 51 State Senate, Incumbent Steve Gooch, a Dahlonega Republican, is unopposed. House Speaker David Ralston, a Fannin County Republican, is unopposed in the District 7 State House race.

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reports show.

Authorities say Debra J. Brown, 50, talked her way through the incident, convinced her husband that the two would get back together, and convinced Ronnie Dale Brown to take her back to her car.

When they arrived back at Debra Brown's car, both got into Debra Brown's vehicle.

The couple then traveled to Debra Brown's parents house; Ronnie Dale Brown brought the gun along, authorities said.

Authorities say Debra Brown went into the home, told her folks to call 911 and went out the back door.

The 911 call came from 169 C.H. Colwell Drive, the home of Debra Brown's parents, Union County sheriff's authorities said.

Union County sheriff's Deputy Travis Gibson soon arrived and began questioning Ronnie Dale Brown as he stood outside.

"Deputy Gibson asked him if he had a gun," sheriff's Investigator Lamar Dyer said. "He said he had no gun, but Deputy Gibson could see it in the front seat. It was a 12 gauge sawed off shotgun."

Sheriff's Cpl. Julio Cruz and Sgt. David Goodwin also arrived at the scene to assist in the arrest, Investigator Dyer said.

The first charge against Ronnie Dale Brown was misdemeanor obstruction for lying about not having a weapon, Investigator Dyer said.

Other charges against Ronnie Dale Brown followed after investigators had the opportunity to interview Debra J. Brown and her parents, Investigator Dyer said.

Those charges include kidnapping, false imprisonment, possession of an illegal sawed off shotgun, possession of a weapon during the commission of a felony, and aggravated assault, Union County arrest warrants show.

Bail for Ronnie Dale

Brown was denied at a bond hearing.

"That was the right decision for the judge to make given the circumstances," said Union County Sheriff's

Investigator C.J. Worden.

Ronnie Dale Brown is being held without bail in the Union County Jail, county jail records show.

Mayor

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Mayor Conley said.

"It's a truly humbling experience and to me, it's a very high honor to get to this level."

The mayor said he looked forward to serving the district over the next year.